Hafa Adai!

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2 survivors sue over fatal plane crash on Tinian. » PAGE 3

Saipan Air's lawsuit dismissed after settlement. » PAGE 5

WINDY FRIDAY JAYSON CAMACHO
Seven windsurfers take to the waters of Micro Beach Friday afternoon, enjoying a view of Managaha Island as they surfed through the waters. Also seen in the photo are other tourists preparing to windsurf off Micro Beach.

'China's stricter gaming rules will have minimal impact on NMI'

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

China's recent decision to impose stricter rules on its citizens regarding gambling abroad may not have that big an impact on the CNMI.

According to Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, the gaming industry plays only a small part in the various integrated resort projects that are set to be established on the island.

Torres, in an email interview, said these integrated resorts also "offers visitors world class accommodations, the beautiful scenery of our island, and complementary industries like restaurants and golf courses."

"I think the total product we offer to

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RELATED NEWS
➤ China's president declares war on global gambling. PAGE 13

'Handguns not protected by Constitution in CNMI'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» DPS data: Of 914 guns registered in 32 years, none was a handgun
» Deleon Guerrero says CNMI citizens enjoy a community free of handguns

Handguns are not constitutionally protected in the CNMI because they have never been used by law-abiding citizens for the purpose of self-defense, according to Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero.

Deleon Guerrero, through the Office of the Attorney General, argue that handguns do not enjoy Second Amendment protection in the CNMI because they have never been possessed or used for self-defense by the people of the Commonwealth.

Deleon Guerrero

He said the Second Amendment protects the right to possess handguns in the United States because of their widespread usage by the American people.

Deleon Guerrero offered these arguments in his op-

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Govt accepts resignation of Corrections chief

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

Mafnas

The government has accepted the courtesy resignation of Department of Corrections Commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas last Friday.

Mafnas handed in his courtesy resignation letter to Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, following Department of Public Works Secretary Martin C. Sablan

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Repair of pathway lights in the works

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority is moving forward with reenergizing the lights along the Beach Road pathway, with a timeline of possibly six months to have assessment, bidding, and construction of new path lights completed.

No pathway lights remain functioning for the pathway, leav-

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INSIDE

WORLD
A riot at a major soccer game in Egypt kills at least 25 people.
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FOCUS
Eddie Ray Routh is scheduled to stand trial in the slaying of "American Sniper" Chris Kyle.
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LIFE & STYLE
Sam Smith was the king of the Grammys, taking home three top awards.
» PAGE 19

GOT A NEWS TIP?
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Island Snapshots

JOINT TALKS

U.S. NAVY/ROY TSUTSUI

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii—Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar, left, poses for a photo with U.S. Charge d' Affaires to Palau Thomas Daley, Palau Minister of State Billy Kuartei and Maj. Gen. Kelly McKeague, Commander, U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command in Hawaii Jan 28. Bolivar, Commander, Joint Region Marianas/U.S. Pacific Command Defense Representative for Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau, was in Hawaii for the Joint Committee Meeting between Palau and the United States.

AGAINST STALKING AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and CNMI Alicia A.G. Limtiaco hold up a Senate resolution in support of the NMI Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and a proclamation designating February as Stalking and Human Trafficking Prevention Awareness Month during the proclamation signing for the latter at the Governor's Office conference room Friday morning.

MARK RABAGO

Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas, left, presents a Citizen's Award to retired Fire captain Juan O. Barcinas, right on Feb. 5, 2015, at the Tinian Mayor's Office conference room in appreciation of his leadership and act of heroism on Jan. 11, 2015, which helped save three lives from a capsized boat off the coast of Aguiguan. In center is 15th Tinian Municipal Council vice chair Dianna H. Borja.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CITIZEN'S AWARD

From left, Sen. Frank Q. Cruz, acting resident department head Juan E. Santos, 15th Tinian Municipal Council secretary/treasurer Edwin M. Hofschneider, Board of Education member Florine M. Hofschneider, Sen. Francisco M. Borja, Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas, Juan O. Barcinas, 15th Tinian Municipal Council chair Raynaldo M. Cing, vice chair Dianna H. Borja, Outreach Program director Magdalena B. San Nicolas, and Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local

2 survivors sue over fatal plane crash on Tinian

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The widow and child of a man who was among three persons killed during a plane crash on Tinian in October 2013 filed a lawsuit in federal court yesterday.

Lisha Gu and Yuxin Wu are suing Tinian Transportation Management Solutions Inc., Star Marianas Air Inc., plane pilot Luis Silva, and 10 unnamed co-defendants, for wrongful death, negligence, loss of consortium, and infliction of emotional distress.

Gu and Yuxin Wu were among the four survivors of the crash. Gu's husband, Xuan Wu, was one of three persons killed in the crash. Yuxin Wu is the minor daughter of Gu and the deceased Xuan Wu.

Silva and a 26-year-old female Chinese tourist were the two other fatalities.

Gu and Yuxin Wu, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI is demanding unspecified damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

The Piper Aircraft being piloted by Silva crashed three miles north of the Tinian International Airport on Oct. 6, 2013 at 2:51am, completely destroying the plane. Xuan Wu was killed, while Gu and Yuxin Wu sustained injuries.

Thompson said the Saipan-bound aircraft descended to an altitude of 302 feet, turned 180 degrees, and collided with a jungle-covered hill at an elevation of 450 feet.

Thompson said the last radio communication showed Silva asking traffic control for weather condition information.

Thompson cited other air crashes involving Star Marianas Air aircraft, including a Nov. 19, 2012, crash involving a Piper 32-300 flying between Saipan and Tinian, which killed one and injured six others. The six survivors, all Chinese nationals, filed last year a wrongful death lawsuit in federal court against the pilot, Jae Choi, Star Marianas Air Inc., Marianas Air Travel, Tinian Transportation Management Solutions Inc., Tianing Travel Agency, Top Development Inc., and 100 unnamed co-defendants.

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Sirok: New developments should hook to CUC grid

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. legal counsel James Sirok has recommended to the joint House and Senate committees on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication that new developments should be required to hook to the CUC grid if it is located on public land.

Sirok said he could work with the Legislature and its attorneys on grid connection for all leases of government lands to get large projects on CUC's grid.

An incentive rate contract that was approved by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission last year allows CUC to contract and attract large commercial customers onto their grid.

Sen. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) said it was ironic that at the end of the day ratepayers would be subsidizing developers' power usage due to the incentive rate.

CUC rate consultant Dan V. Jackson of economist.com said that it is a very common practice for utility agencies to offer a very attractive rates in order to get customers back onto its grid and that was the whole purpose of the incentive rate contract.

In a separate interview, CUC board chair David Sablan Jr. said three major accounts have joined the first cycle for the introductory rate.

Sablan said the three have already signed up since the closing of the first cycle on Jan. 26, 2015. The next cycle will open in October this year so if others still want to return to the grid, they can sign up for that.

However, Sablan said the first cycle is different and the second cycle may change.

"The rate could change, that is why we have a second cycle. It may increase slightly but will not go below from what it is now so they may experience a higher rate than our first cycle but hopefully it will not go up that much," Sablan said.

The three major businesses that signed up for the first cycle were Saipan World Resort, T-Galleria/Duty Free Saipan, and Mariana Resort and Spa.

Saipan World Resort special projects manager Jun Ham confirmed that they are customers of CUC but declined to comment further.

In a separate interview, Mariana Resort general manager Gloria Cavanagh said that they haven't done the transfer yet but have signed up and turned in all their paperwork and are now just waiting to get back on CUC's grid.

"It is the best solution for the CNMI to start using CUC and we will still maintain our power plants in case CUC would not be able to provide us with power in certain areas," Cavanagh said.

She said if large consumers do not go back to the grid, CUC won't be able to generate the money it needs for operation.

"I'd like to encourage for other commercial customers to get back on CUC grid. I already to spoke to DFS' Mark Moss regarding this so we turned around and signed the papers," she said.

MVA OKs general scheme for PDM Flower Island

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority has arrived at a general scheme to begin the "Flower Island" project at the Paseo De Marianas. Architect Timothy Lang, of TRL Architecture and Environmental Consulting, presented some of the proposed details of the plan during their board meeting last Friday.

MVA is working with Japanese landscape architect Junichi Inada and local architects and engineers on the project. Right now, Inada is producing landscape documents. This is expected to be done by the end of the month and MVA expects an invitation to bid in April.

Physical changes to Paseo De Marianas are proposed, along with installation of flowers and plants like bougainvillea beds or healthier palm trees, among others.

Lang said there are things at the center of the PDM pathway that prevent people on both ends from seeing where the path goes.

They look to "open things up" to give more space to events and exhibitions in the center all throughout PDM, as well as to create greater visibility down the pathway from both ends, he said.

They also propose incorporating a children's play area, near the police office, or koban, on PDM's west side, as well as "fixing up" the Japanese shrine.

Lang also highlighted the possible construction of a permanent stage.

This, he said, may borrow from Micronesian architecture, by using tall eight-frame roofs.

Board director Chris Nelson said the area behind this stage would be ideal for local groups to practice or perform informally.

He said exit surveys show tourists want to interact with locals. The venue will allow that to happen naturally, he said.

Lang described the steel glass roofs of PDM's shaded seating areas as "industrial looking." These he said may be replaced by wood frame to give it more of an island look.

After the project at PDM, the Flower Island project will then move to Banzai Cliff.

Overall, the project stems from Inada's vision to create different "flower zones" at tourist-heavy sites on island, at the airport, the north side memorials, and at Mt. Tapochau for example.

REPAIR

From Page 1

ing long patches of darkness for tourists and residents at night. Much of the electrical components have been stripped of copper wires by thieves

Sonya Dancoe, professional engineer, of SPDA Engineering Firm, gave a project update to MVA board at their meeting last Friday, saying an inventory was done for light fixtures from Kilili Beach/ Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to the American Memorial Park and the Paseo de Marianas and Bank of Saipan areas as well.

There are a total of five electrical cabinets, with three along Beach Road, but "without any further budget for electrical investigation" they could not determine if these were functional, Dancoe said.

To solve this, a two-phase approach was taken. The first phase would be for "assessing pathways" and the latter for construction.

It was decided that a master electrician be hired to do the tests, to see if fixtures can be salvaged or replaced. But no electrician responded, save one, for a $7,500 proposal, it was gathered.

This proposal would entail electrical investigation, specifications for conduits, and restoring them and entails design work and random site inspection.

This first phase, according to MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, would "find out if there any breaks in conduits" so that the company the project is bid to "will have a better understanding of what's wrong," he said.

"Cleaner and cooler lighting fixtures" like LED lights are proposed, according to Tenorio.

Board director Jerry Tan called reenergizing the pathway one of MVA's most important projects.

"We would like to have tourists use [the path] more" especially at night, he said.

He inquired into the long-term maintenance of the lights, recommending also that operation hours are from 6pm to 6am to "make our island safe."

"A lot of our tourists leave and arrive around 1am and 3am. To have a good "first and last impression is always nice," he said.

Tan said visitors have told him that the island is "very dark." "We need to brighten up the island a little more" to feel safe, he added.

In trying to answer the question, "Who is the keeper of this project?" Dancoe found out that CIP office and the Department of Public Works did not have any current plans for the project. Tan, in turn, recommended a memorandum of understanding between MVA and DPW for "commitment from the very beginning" to protect MVA's investment and ensure long-term maintenance, he said.

MVA vice chair James Nelson further recommended that MVA hire someone internally to "have a better handle" on these interagency projects to act as a "liaison" in protecting the investment.

A project timeline was also discussed. Assessment and design would take 30 days, advertising or the request for proposal would take a period of one month, and construction length for the project could be dictated by MVA, for a possible timeline of six months.

HANDGUNS

From Page 1

position to a motion for summary judgment filed by U.S. Navy Gulf War veteran David J. Radich and his Chinese wife, Li-Rong Radich.

The Radich couple have filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging the constitutionality of the CNMI Weapons Control Act that prohibits all residents from obtaining handguns for self-defense purposes.

The plaintiffs are suing Deleon Guerrero for violation of their right to keep and bear firearms.

In Deleon Guerrero's opposition, assistant attorney general James Zarones said handguns are given constitutional protection because of their widespread use by the citizens of the states, as explained by the U.S. Supreme Court.

"If the widespread usage of handguns for self-defense justifies their constitutional protection, then it logically follows that the Supreme Court would have denied constitutional protection to handguns if they had never been used by law-abiding citizens for self-protection," Zarones said.

He said the handgun data compiled by Deleon Guerrero proves what is already known: law-abiding CNMI citizens have never possessed handguns for the purposes of self-defense.

In the previous 32 years, the lawyer said, CNMI citizens registered 914 guns, none of which was a handgun

"Simply put, the data clearly demonstrates that handguns have never been "the most preferred firearm" in the CNMI and the people have never "considered the handgun to be the quintessential self-defense weapon," he noted.

On the contrary, Zarones said, CNMI citizens have always "enjoyed a community free of handguns."

He asserted that the Radich couple does not have standing to challenge the Weapons Control Act because a court's favorable decision would not redress their alleged injuries.

Zarones pointed out that the plaintiffs have not challenged the constitutionality of the statute, which prohibits the importation of handguns into the CNMI.

Second, Zarones said, the Radich couple has not established that they are entitled to an identification card issued pursuant to the Weapons Control Act.

Third, he said, the couple has not attended and successfully completed the Mandatory Firearm Safety Class, which is required by law prior to the issuance of an identification card.

Zarones also asserted that Li-Rong Radich is not entitled to an identification card because she is not a citizen or U.S. national.

Zarones said the plaintiffs seek to impose upon the Commonwealth an interpretation of the Second Amendment that is directly contrary to the intent of the framers of the Covenant.

He also asserted that the court would not have the authority to issue an injunction prohibiting the enforcement of the Commonwealth contraband laws because Deleon Guerrero does not have a duty to enforce the law prohibiting the importation of contraband.

The Radich couple have asked the court to prevent Deleon Guerrero from enforcing against them the prohibitions on virtually all CNMI residents from obtaining handguns for self-defense purposes and the provision on obtaining a Weapons Identification Card and possessing a firearm for self-defense purposes; and for good cause requirement for obtaining a WIC.

The couple asked the court to declare that such prohibitions are null and void because they infringe on the right of the people to keep and bear arms in violation of the Second and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Radich was born in California. He is an honorably discharged U.S. Navy veteran who served in the Gulf War. He used to work at a public school on Tinian then moved to Saipan in 2008 to work for an environmental consulting firm. He and Li-Rong have been married since 2009.

According to the complaint, in 2010, while Radich was away and his wife, Li Rong, was at home alone, their home was invaded.

Li-Rong was reportedly attacked and beaten resulting in injuries, including two broken ribs, facial contusions, and a suspected broken orbital bone and eye socket.

Li-Rong screamed out for help and caused the home invader to leave. She eventually recovered physically, but both plaintiffs incurred medical bills for Li-Rong's care.

The couple, through counsel, argued that the Second Amendment "guarantee[s] the individual right to possess and carry weapons in case of confrontation."

MMAC team meeting on Feb. 11

The 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer committee will be holding its first team meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 5:30pm at the Commonwealth Cancer Association conference room on Middle Road in Gualo Rai (by the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.). All corporations/businesses, families, schools, government agencies and nonprofit organizations interested in forming a team are encouraged to attend this meeting where important information regarding the 2015 MMAC will be discussed.

For more information on the Marianas March Against Cancer contact 2015 MMAC chair Diana I. Benavente at 285-2197, email dibenavente@hotmail.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org. ***(MMAC)***

RESIGNATION

From Page 1

whose courtesy resignation was accepted last Feb. 4.

Mafnas is a former chief of the Department of Public Safety, which he held concurrently with his appointment as Corrections chief. He was embroiled in controversial cases as DPS chief and was even petitioned to vacate his post in 2012.

The lieutenant governor earlier said while the nominations of acting Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Richard Seman and acting Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman have been made, there is still no definite date on when the rest of the new Cabinet would finally shape up.

Torres added that Gov. Eloy S. Inos may have a clear idea on who will be nominated or retained and that a new Cabinet could finally be announced by "end of January."

"There are some Cabinet members who will stay and there are some Cabinet members who would be shifting to other responsibilities," he said.

It was also reported that the makeup of the new Cabinet would be based on the transition report that will be submitted by Committee on Transition chair Gregorio M. Camacho.

With the a resignations of Mafas and Sablan, the current Cabinet is left with Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Laura Ogumoro, Labor Secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero, Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio, DPS Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, Chief Public Defender Doug Hartig, special assistant for Management and Budget Virginia Villagomez, special assistant for Homeland Security and Emergency Management Marvin Seman, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Frank Rabauliman, special assistant for administration Esther Fleming, Carolinian Affairs Office director Jose Limes, Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority special assistant Thomas J. Camacho, Women's Affairs Office special assistant Remy Buniag, and acting press secretary Ivan Blanco.

Inos requested his Cabinet to submit courtesy resignations immediately after his and Torres' victory in the runoff election in December.

CHINA

From Page 1

visitors around the world is improving and will prove to make us competitive, not only to gamers, but to a wide spectrum of markets that include families," Torres said.

Business Insider reported that President Xi Jinping "has officially declared war on the global gambling industry, warning foreign casinos that Chinese citizens will be gambling much less in China, neighboring countries, and the U.S."

The stern warning from the Chinese leader is a continuation of China's efforts to curb widespread corruption and gambling among its citizens.

The *Business Insider* report said one of the steps that the Xi government will be taking is "to cut down on advertisements promoting casinos in Macau."

"Visa restrictions will also tighten, and even retail gamblers will have their money tracked as the Chinese government will also monitor UnionPay, the only domestic bank card in mainland China," the report said.

Macau, the Philippines, and Singapore, among others, are expected to feel the impact of the crackdown of the Chinese government on gambling.

Macau's gaming industry, particularly, has felt most of the blow of China's crackdown.

Torres said, though, that "China's continued efforts to curtail widespread corruption and responsibly manage their gaming operations is not at odds with the development goals of the CNMI."

"Efforts to ensure that the gaming industry is clean and without corruption or organized crime is what may see an overall financial effect to our industry here, but if we look at the non-monetary side of the equation, I believe we will benefit in the longer term," he said.

Saipan Air's lawsuit dismissed after settlement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed yesterday with prejudice Saipan Air's $12.5-million lawsuit against Swift Air executives Jeffry Conry and Boris Van Lier.

Manglona issued the order after Saipan Air, Conry, and Van Lier filed in court a stipulation of dismissal with prejudice, which means the lawsuit cannot be re-opened.

As agreed by the parties, the judge said the court retains jurisdiction to enforce the terms of the confidential agreement.

The parties, through their respective counsels, recently informed the court that they have reached a confidential deal.

The amount of the settlement was undisclosed.

The jury trial against Conry and Van Lier relating to Saipan Air's fraud claims was supposed to start last week.

Saipan Air originally filed in July 2012 a $50-million racketeering lawsuit against Conry, Van Lier, and Swift Air's then chief restructuring officer Donald Stukes over their failure to deliver three aircraft for Saipan Air's program.

The court allowed Saipan Air's fraud claims against Conry and Van Lier to go through, but dismissed the claims of racketeering and unjust enrichment against the three executives.

In its amended complaint for fraud claims against Conry and Van Lier, Saipan Air sought $2.5 million in compensatory damages and $10 million in punitive damages.

Swift Air filed for bankruptcy protection in Arizona shortly after notifying Saipan Air that it would not deliver two 757 aircraft and one 737 aircraft for Saipan Air's program.

Conry and Van Lier are currently employed by Arizona-based Swift Air, which emerged from bankruptcy in 2013.

Bill seeks to amend qualifications for Fire Dept workers

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

A bill has been introduced in the Legislature seeking to amend the qualifications of employees in the CNMI's newly created Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) introduced HB 19-16, which aims to amend certain provisions of Public Law 18-73 "to ensure public safety and employment equity."

HB 19-16 seeks to amend provisions pertaining to duties, staff and the administrations' responsibilities.

One proposed clarification is for "qualified staff" to mean "all such staff shall be subject to Civil Service regulations, before becoming civil service employees."

H.B 19-16 also suggest the same amendments for Division of Emergency Services workers, calling for these employees to be subjected to Civil Services regulations.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services is now a reality after a bill separating the service from the Department of Public Safety, Senate Bill 18-057, became Public Law 18-73 in January.

The Legislature passed the bill after finding out that under the purview of DPS, the Fire Division received less than the required funds necessary to fully and properly operate the division.

The erstwhile Fire and EMS division currently has 96 personnel on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

More training exercises to enhance CHCC response

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The recently held three-day pandemic emergency exercise that saw the distribution of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies and concluded with a comprehensive discussion last Friday contributed to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s needed training.

According to CHCC Public Health-Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program director Warren Villagomez, CHCC will be continuing the exercises more often to enhance local capabilities in responding to a virus outbreak.

Villagomez said that this is not the end of the exercise because CHCC will continue to provide these exercises and continue to make the CNMI safer in case of an emergency like a pandemic influenza.

In an interview with CHCC CEO Esther Muña last Friday, she said the training was successful and that it was necessary to do this so they could make the CNMI a better place and protect the public's health and safety overall.

"It went great and we discussed a lot of necessary things that needed to be addressed," Muña said.

Tara Brown, project officer of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Division of State and Local Readiness-Office of Public Health and Preparedness and Response, said she was glad to work with the various stakeholders that contributed to the exercise.

"In the event of a disaster, noting mistakes and what is needed is why exercises are conducted. You want to identify and know your gaps in the process of the exercise. That way, addressing the problems would be much easier in future exercises," Brown said.

The exercise started on Feb. 3 and ended Feb. 5, with simulations on transporting pharmaceutical and medical supplies to CHCC's medical storage, distributing it to Rota and Tinian, and a "point of dispersion" to patients who need help.

On Feb. 6, all participants met to discuss the gaps identified and future trainings needed.

Chamber prepares for new program

Join the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's organizational meeting for the Saipan Chamber Young Professionals today, Feb. 10, at 10am in the Chamber conference room. Please mark your calendar to attend, or send one of your managers who may be interested in participating in our new program, which targets mid-level managers and up-and-coming professionals ages 18-35. This is a great way to develop your workforce and strengthen your company. The program is open to all employees. ***(PR)***

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NOTICE OF AUCTION
UNDER NOTE & SECURITY AGREEMENT

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to that certain Security Agreement (Chattel Mortgage) The Commonwealth Development Authority will hold an auction on 19 used Trikes.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;

2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;

3. The public auction will be held at CDA Conference Room, 1st Floor of the CDA Building in Oleai, Saipan on **Friday, February 27, 2015 at 2:00 pm.**;

4. The Buyer at auction will be responsible for removing the items at the day of sale;

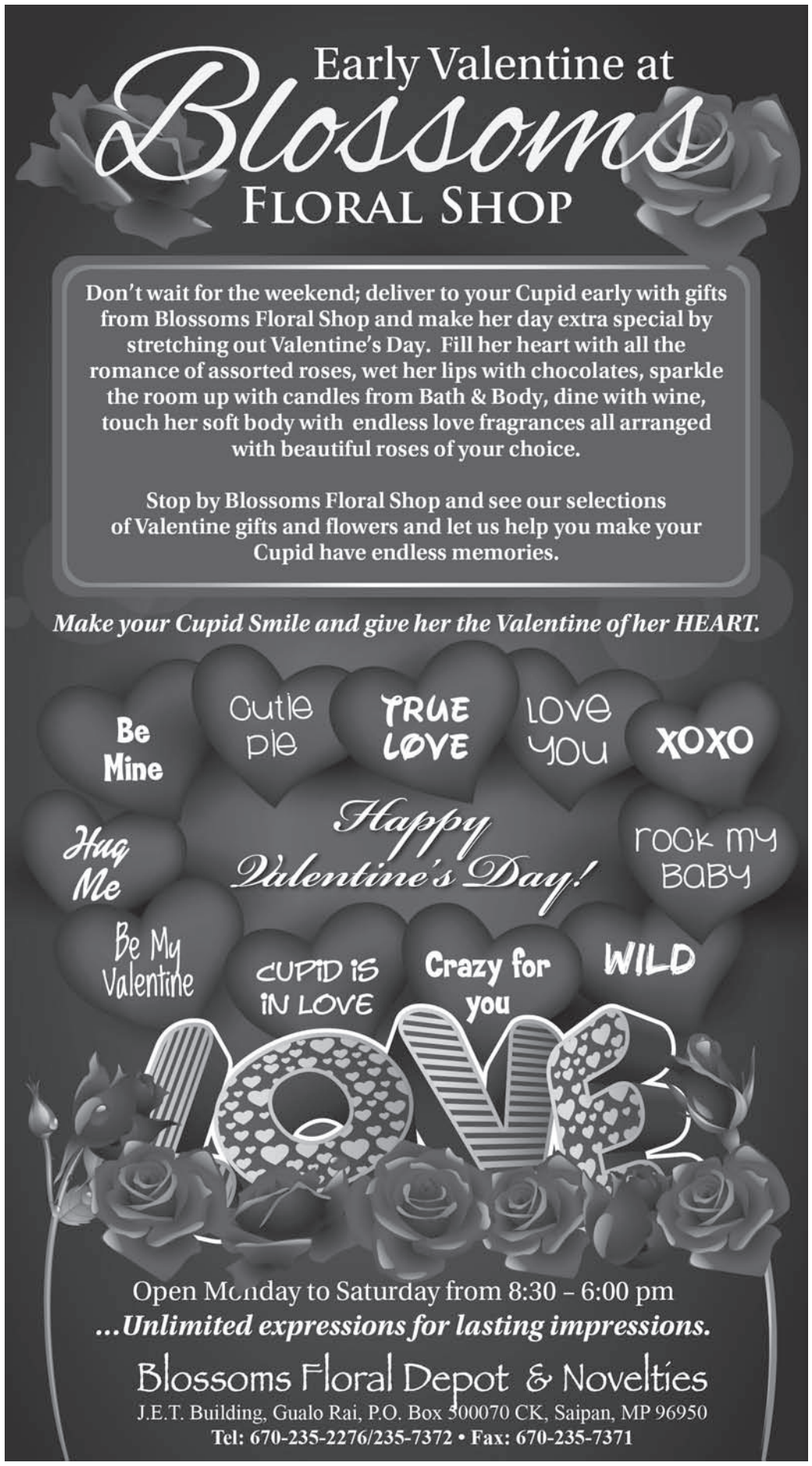
5. Terms of the sale are cash, credit card* (Master Card and Visa only) or certified check; and

6. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

credit card payments are charged additional 1.75% above sale price for processing fee.

Full payment of the bid amount is required before the property can be removed from the CDA Office. Payment must be received before end of business day, 4:00 p.m. Friday, February 27, 2015. Failure to make full payment will cause award to be null and void and the next highest bid will be considered.

For Inquiries, please contact CDA at 234-6245 ext. 301, 309 or 310.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DLNR preps for 5-year audit on wildlife, sports fish program

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Department of Land and Natural Resources is preparing for their five-year audit for the Wildlife and Sports Fish Restoration program due in April, according to acting secretary Richard Seman.

In an interview, Seman said he met with the federal officials on this upcoming audit and the annual review of the program.

The CNMI has had the program since 1983, he said. The audit is for every five years.

"The five years are coming up this April. So they are getting their inventory and records updated. So when the audit begins, it's all there," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He pointed to some issues from the previous audit in 2010—for issues in 2008 and 2009—that also have to be taken cared of. His department is working on a corrective action plan for these issues, he said.

The corrective actions would deal with indirect costs for administrative activities. He said for every grant they receive they get indirect costs that can be charged for administrative uses like for financial statements, for example.

"[The program] was probably charging more than what the agreement allows so the CNMI government has to reimburse that back."

"Everything put together for the two years is $65,000," he said.

But he clarified that the money that went back to repayment "actually just goes back again to our program."

"We pay in but they give it back to us on our program," he said.

Seman indicated they are set on working on the CAP, expressing confidence in getting it done. "We have to," he said. This is what allows them to continue to receive federal funds, he said.

"Most of the staff have been around for the previous two audits so they are more knowledgeable now on what is necessary and what they need to put together," he said.

Apatang initiates community cleanups

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang has already started sending out community workers to clean up villages this month and in the months ahead.

In an interview with Apatang last Thursday, Apatang said that community workers have been cleaning from both ends of the island. One team is working from the north end, while the other will start out from the south end.

Apatang noted that regular island cleanups are one of his priorities and is actually part of the Saipan Mayor's Office's duties.

Community workers started cleaning northern villages such as San Roque, As Matuis, and Tanapag, while the other team cleaned up Koblerville while moving toward the north.

One resident from Tanapag said that it was a good idea and he was glad to see several men clearing up the village's beach last week.

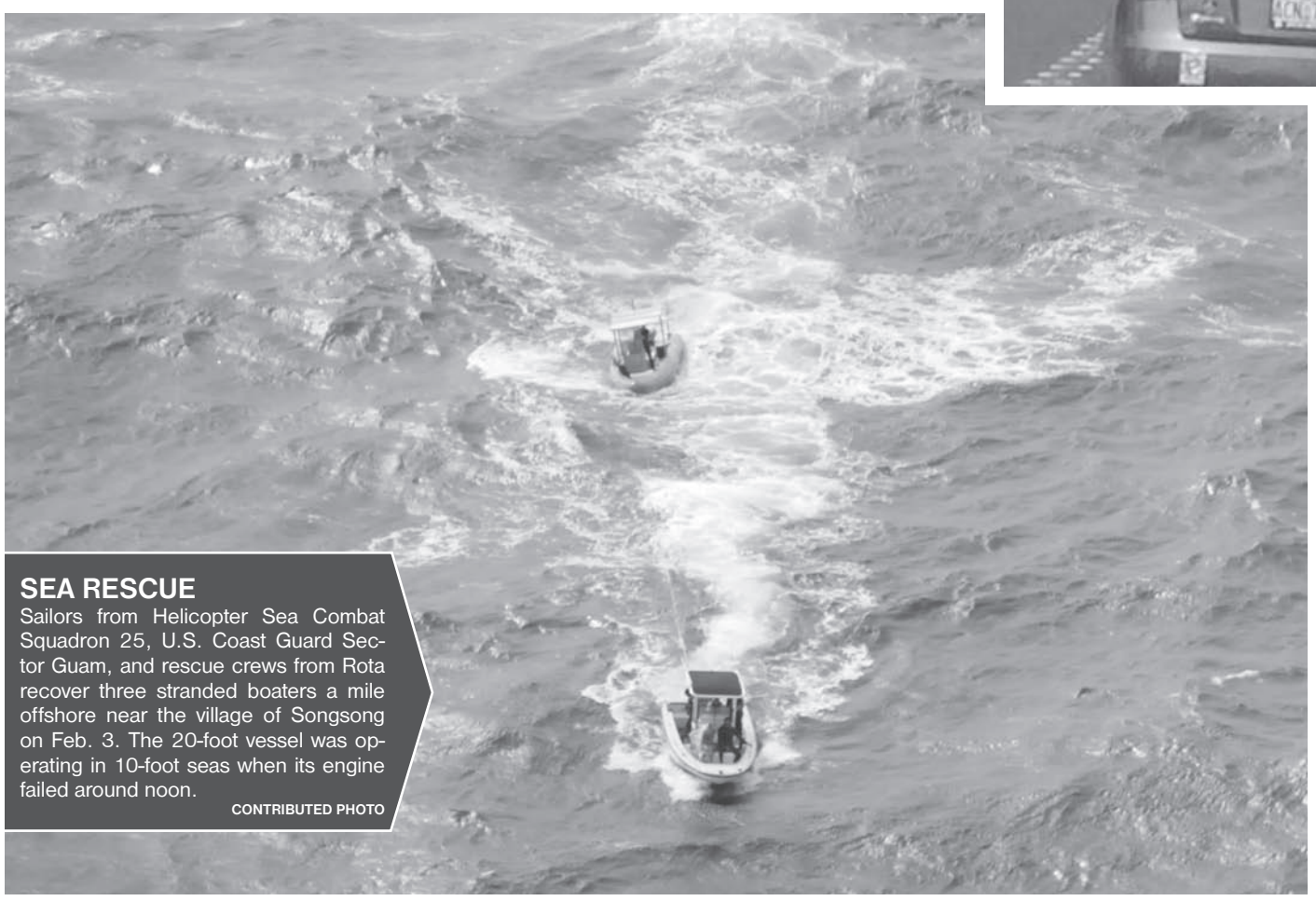
Apatang also assured that with the new backhoes already with his office, the next phase is to train his staff on the proper use of these equipment before groundwork and maintenance of secondary roads could start.

In related news, Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas has also started his community program with workers maintaining several areas in preparation for the Pika Festival this weekend.

Community workers have started cleaning and painting the Tinian Public Library, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. Staff started clearing debris and trimming the yards of the three government agencies.

Tinian residents have expressed gratitude for San Nicolas' efforts via social media and hoped that the Tinian Mayor's Office continue the work they did last week.

TRAFFIC MISHAP FERDIE DE LA TORRE
A vehicular accident causes a heavy traffic along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road near YCO Building on Saturday afternoon. Police have yet to release information to the media about the crash.



SEA RESCUE
Sailors from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, and rescue crews from Rota recover three stranded boaters a mile offshore near the village of Songsong on Feb. 3. The 20-foot vessel was operating in 10-foot seas when its engine failed around noon.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Make-A-Wish builds playground for 6-year-old

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Six-year-old Joerome Aguon was all smiles yesterday as he played with his siblings and cousin on a new playground set erected in the front yard of his Dededo home.

"We're pretty excited," said Jesse Aguon, the boy's father. "Now we don't have to go to the park anymore. We have one in our own yard."

The playground was built through the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam, a group that helps grant wishes for young children and teens with life-threatening medical conditions.

To an outsider, Joerome Aguon looks like any other young boy—rambunctious and full of life. However, since he was born, he has struggled with liver issues.

The 6-year-old has shown progress in the last year after receiving throat surgery in the Philippines, which keeps him from vomiting blood. The boy is still waiting for a liver transplant, but doctors recommend the transplant surgery not take place until he's older—around age 15.

Joerome Aguon and his family found out last year that he qualified for a wish through the Make-A-Wish organization.

"We kept asking him what he wanted, but it was mainly Spiderman things," the boy's mother, Leilani Toves, said. "We told him he could pick something bigger, and he said he wanted a playground."

On Jan. 30, the red and blue playground Joerome Aguon had been eagerly awaiting to enjoy for months was finally unveiled by Make-A-Wish Guam.

"It represents Spiderman—the color of it," Toves said. "He's really excited he got this. He likes the swing. When he saw [the playground], [he saw] there are different slides to climb onto."

Black Construction handled the installation of the playground, and Macy's sponsored the project.

"Our donors came through in a big way, by covering the cost of the equipment and shipping," Make-A-Wish Board chair Mike Naholowaa said in a release. "The in-kind donation of construction services allowed us to save money toward other program expenses."

Make-A-Wish Guam executive director Victor Camacho said a wish starts with a referral. Camacho said if anyone knows of a child with a serious illness, they can email or call the organization.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Dandan Middle School PTSA meeting today

Dandan Middle School will have its PTSA meeting today, Feb. 10, 2015, starting at 6pm in the school's cafeteria. Your attendance is greatly appreciated. ***(PR)***

CCA board meeting on Feb. 17

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org or ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(CCA)***

Water outage in Chalan Kiya tomorrow

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the residents of Chalan Kiya that there will be a water outage from 9am to 12pm tomorrow, Feb. 11, 2015. This will allow CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas, to test a new pressure-reducing valve and allow water from the Kannat Tabla reservoir to bring water service to the Chalan Kiya village. For more information, contact project manager Yvonne Cabrera at (670) 664-4282. ***(CUC)***

Survivors, caregivers' support meeting on Thursday

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's monthly survivors/caregivers support meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room, from 5:30pm to 7pm. The special guest speaker will be the Medical Referral Office Director, Ronald Sablan. To RSVP, email us or call our office at 682-0050. ***(CCA)***

Free class on Japanese culture

The Consular Office of Japan on Saipan will organize a class about Japanese culture. Any interested person is kindly requested to register your name by Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015, by contacting the Saipan Register at cojsf@ag.mofa.go.jp. The class will be open to just 15 people on a first-come, first-served basis.

The class will be held Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015, from 2:30pm to 4:30pm, at the conference room of the Consular Office of Japan, second floor, Bank Hawaii Building, Mariana Heights Business Park, Puerto Rico, Saipan. The class will take up Japanese animation *Nitabo*, a story of the founder of Tsugaru, shamisen, origami (paper folding), Japanese sake, etc. ***(PR)***

No typhoon watch in effect in NMI

Typhoon Higos is slowly strengthening north-northwest of Pohnpei but no watches or warnings are in effect in the Northern Marianas so far.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management said the center of Typhoon Higos was located at 1pm yesterday 775 miles east of Guam and 725 miles east-southeast of Saipan, with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph.

Higos was moving west-northwest at 3mph. A slow west-northwest to northwest motion is expected through Thursday, curving more to the north Thursday and Friday. This forecast track keeps Typhoon Higos well east of the Marianas.

Higos is forecast to continue intensifying through Tuesday morning, then begin a weakening trend that is expected to continue the rest of the week. By Saturday morning, Higos is expected to be a weakening tropical depression near Minami Tori Shima.

Residents of the Marianas are being urged to stay informed on this developing weather situation. Keep abreast of the latest forecasts and listen for any further statements from the National Weather Service and the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management. It will be monitoring the movement of the tropical depression and will be issuing bulletins as they become available.

"Please continue to monitor the official bulletins, which will be available through local media sources and NOAA weather radio broadcast on 162.5 megahertz, or call CNMI EOC Dispatch Center at 237-8000 or 211, and for the Northern Islands to contact the CNMI EOC Dispatch Center at high frequency single side band radio on frequency 5.205.0. ***(HSEM)***

PCC remembers Rosendo Skang

Colleagues of Rosendo Skang at the Palau Community College attend his funeral. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Palau Community College recently faced the unfortunate loss of one of its long-time staff members, Rosendo Skang.

Skang

Skang worked as the landscaper for the college for over 15 years. He was also an alumnus of PCC who received a certificate in Agriculture in 1979. Skang was also a prominent sports member of the Palauan community. In 1990, his athletic agility and prowess earned him a gold medal for the All-Around Event of the Micronesian Games held on Saipan.

Skang passed away in December 2014 and his funeral was held on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015. His presence is greatly missed on the college campus. ***(PCC)***

Valentine's at Hyatt Regency Saipan

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Romance should always be in the air, but Feb. 14 is the definite date when romance and love should be celebrated with your special someone.

Ensuring the perfect romantic experience is always the hard part, which is why Hyatt Regency Saipan has set up various romantic experience for you and your loved one this Valentine's Day.

Guests can choose how they celebrate their love with Hyatt's gourmet dining options, romantic spa treatments or decadent confections. For those looking for a romantic experience, Hyatt is offering an array of options for the "not-to-miss" day of romance and love.

Giovanni's

Giovanni's will be offering a "La Notte Rosa" set menu dinner priced at $80 per person, including Hyatt Club members. Served from 6pm to 9pm, make reservations for two and indulge in Giovanni's rendition of Italy's "Pink Night" festival. Dinner will be prepared by Hyatt's executive chef Gabriele Colombo and will feature pink elements in each course with choice of main dish. Select wines will be sold at a discounted rate.

Kili Café & Terrace

Kili Café & Terrace will serve a Valentine's Day dinner buffet from 6pm to 9pm. Are you ready for a chocolate overload? Experience the culinary fanfare that will leave couples breathless at only $50 per person. The scrumptious buffet will include beer, wine, a glass of sparkling wine and ice tea, and a special gift will be presented to the ladies. The buffet will feature a wide array of appetizers, a seafood corner, a barbecue corner, and Valentine's desserts. Live stations include fennel cakes and assorted condiments.

Teppanyaki

Teppanyaki will be serving a dinner set menu called "Ocean's Best." Two sitting times will be set at 6pm and 8pm. This year's grand seafood set menu is not to be missed. The skilled teppanyaki chef will inspire romance and woo couples as he prepares the featured half Maine lobster and Atlantic salmon according to diner's preference. It is priced at $100 per person and dinner includes a glass of sparkling wine upon arrival and a gift for the ladies.

Miyako

Miyako will be serving a "Grand Valentine's" dinner from 6pm to 9pm. Enjoy specially prepared buffet featuring oyster and ikura caviar shooters, scallop croquettes with yuzu essence and the sweetest seafood bounty. The buffet will include hot and cold selections plus indulgent desserts and a hot shiratama zenzai. It is priced at $50 per person and buffet includes beer, a glass of sake, iced tea and a gift for the ladies. Reservations are highly recommended due to limited seats.

FOR RESERVATIONS
Tel: 234-1234

Gazebo

A private dinner Gazebo for two will serve dinner from 6pm to 9pm. After couples soak in the sunset, they can let this romantic rendezvous set the mood on this special day of love and romance. The intimate gazebo dinner for two allows lovers to choose between a garden or a beachside setting. Only six intimate dinner slots are available on Feb. 13, 14, and 15 and price is set at $300 per couple that includes a glass of sparkling wine and a gift for the ladies. Selected wines will also be sold at a discounted rate.

I Sagua Spa

Enjoy getting pampered at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's signature I Sagua Spa that has a variety of gift certificates available and recommends taking advantage of its personally tailored treatments. Reservations are highly recommended.

DJ's Corner

Select a great gift at DJ's Corner from its beautiful and delectable array of Valentine's Day pastries. This variety of confectionary treats will sweeten any Valentine's moment.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JENEQUA LOZANO, Petitioner, -vs- WILLIAM LOZANO Respondent,
FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0031
SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 66038 Beaufort, SC 29904 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2015

/s/ Clerk of Court

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP15-DCCA/NAP-036

SUBMISSION: MAY 11, 2015 **TIME: 10:00A.M.**

"TO PROVIDE CNMI NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM'S ELIGIBILTY SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CNMI NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER **FEBRUARY 10, 2015** AT THE **DCCA-NAP OFFICE**, LOCATED AT THE JTV BUILDING IN AS LITO, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT **9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, ONFEBRUARY 27, 2015** AT THE DCCA-NAP OFFICE. **QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING AND ARE DUE NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE ODF BUSINESS, **MARCH 26, 2015** AND MUST BE DIRECTED TO MR. WALTER MACARANAS, NAP ADMINISTRATOR BY FAX TO (670) 664-2850 OR E-MAIL TO **dccanap@pticom.com**

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ **LAURA T. OGUMORO**
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-004

Opening Date: Friday, February 06, 2015
Closing Date: Thursday, February 19, 2015

Trades Assistant (Operator)

Duties: Work under the direct supervision of the Deputy Director or his/her designee. Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools. Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues. Responds to trouble calls as needed. Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site. Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used. Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete. Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports. Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities. Servicing equipment by disassembling, assembling, cleaning and calibrating; Assisting with equipment inspections; Monitoring gauges on engine generators; Reading meters and collecting data; Monitor and maintain pump fuel; Operating incinerators; Operating oil and water separator pump; Servicing and preparing oil filters; Responding to customer calls; Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing obstacles; Fabricating materials for required parts. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION(S): Power Plant, **Rota,** Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $16,742.00 per annum.

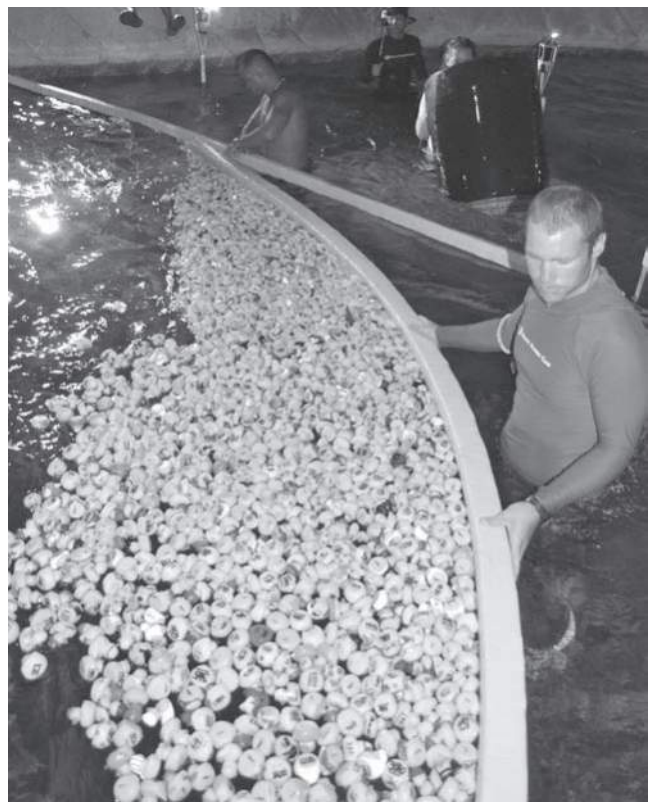
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

POSITION(S): One (1).

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS; Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a CNMI driver's license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants may be tested AND are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

7th Annual PIC Duck Race



11th Annual Canary Walkathon

A crowd gathers at the beginning of the San Vicente Elementary School Canary walkathon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rep. Ed Propst, his wife Daisy, and son smile for the camera.

Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres shows no fear in getting down with performers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Energetic kids were a frequent sight at the walkathon Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rep. Angel Demapan and Sen. Sixto Igisomar join the Saturday festivities.

SVES students were all smiles Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SVES students continue their diligent trek around the walkathon's lap circle.

Arts and crafts were exhibited at the walkathon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grownups and kids both took part in the walkathon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The sound system was in good hands with some of the community volunteers on board.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Half-solutions to the immigration problem

To hear hard-liners tell it, this nation's immigration problem boils down to one issue: border security. Fix it, and everything else will fall into place. In reality, if they were to divert every dollar in President Barack Obama's proposed $4 trillion budget for border security, America's immigration problem would remain only half-solved.

Increased border security helps deter new migrants from entering and helps boost the number of apprehensions of those who do cross, such as the tens of thousands who surrendered at the border last summer. Yes, tighter border security helped ensure those crossers were captured immediately.

Once in U.S. custody, though, they join the hundreds of thousands already awaiting court hearings to determine whether they merit deportation. An appalling backlog in the nation's immigration courts is why border security alone can't solve the problem. According to recent reports, thousands of unauthorized migrants are being told they must wait until 2019 before their day in court arrives.

The backlog is one that Congress has failed repeatedly to address, regardless of which party is in control. The fact that the GOP now controls both houses of Congress means Republicans can no longer avoid the court problem that the hard-liners' intransigence on immigration reform has helped worsen.

Emphasis on border security has led to a tripling in staffing by the U.S. Border Patrol since 1997. There's been a corresponding surge in the backlog faced by U.S. immigration courts because, while it might take only a few minutes to catch a border crosser, it can take an average of more than 800 days to process that migrant through the courts. There are only around 230 judges to handle the nearly 430,000 cases pending.

The frenzy of allocations in last fall's federal spending bill to build detention centers and bolster border security didn't include similar increases in funding to hire more immigration court judges. If apprehensions at the border continue to rise as they did last year, the backlog seems destined to go from bad to worse.

Congress must not confuse funding for immigration courts with the threatened withholding of Homeland Security Department funds to punish the president for his unilateral action to protect millions of immigrants from deportation. Immigration courts are under Justice Department jurisdiction. The only way to ensure the speedy processing of those unauthorized immigrants already here is to give the courts the resources they need.

Members of Congress who insist on tougher security to cut the numbers of unauthorized immigrants in this country must give the law a chance to work. Adequate court funding is the only way to clear this horrendous backlog and ensure the rule of law is applied.

(c)2015 *The Dallas Morning News*

Why, in 2015, are we debating about vaccination?

By REKHA BASU
Des Moines Register

Rekha Basu is a columnist for the Des Moines Register. *Readers may send her email at rbasu@dmreg.com.*

Rand Paul said a curious thing when asked, in reference to the measles outbreak across 14 states, if government should require parents to vaccinate their children. The libertarian-oriented Republican senator from Kentucky could have been expected to say, as he did, that government should not. But his reasoning took the philosophy of less regulation and more personal freedom to a whole other level.

"States don't own the children," declared Paul, who is considering a run for president. "Parents own the children."

No, we don't own our children. From slavery to child sexual abuse, the notion of owning another human has led to nothing good. Legally, we're responsible for our kids and their care, feeding and safety until they're old enough to take care of themselves. But they are autonomous human beings, which is why, unlike property, there are laws and standards governing what we can and can't do to them culled not just from individual whims and wishes, but from knowledge of child development, mental and physical health and education.

Children have died, for example, because their parents refused to give them medicines or let them be operated on. Shouldn't the state have a role to play when parents defer to a religious belief that only God can cure illnesses? Don't states have a legitimate right to intervene when parents abuse their children in the name of discipline or don't provide them an education?

If it were left to parents exclusively whether or not to vaccinate their children before sending them to school, there would be risks not just to their child but to the whole school. The measles outbreak that began at California's Disneyland has already infected more than 100 people, and that includes kids too young to be vaccinated. Amusement parks have no way to protect their visitors since someone can be infected with measles before visible marks appear.

That's why vaccinating kids is an important public health measure.

Have we forgotten what a welcome relief it was when the measles vaccine appeared on the scene and measles were considered to be eradicated in 2000? Now with parents opting out of vaccinating, measles are making a comeback. There were 644 cases last year, spanning more than half the states. Some parents refuse vaccinations for religious reasons. Some are still responding to a fear created years ago by a since discredited and withdrawn study claiming a link between vaccines and autism. Even discredited theories can still be found lurking on the Internet.

And when you inject politics into the debate, especially approaching election times, it generates other confusion. Thanks to an unusual convergence of forces, something as basic and essential to the public health has become fraught with controversy, just as the common standards essential to educational outcomes have been. In this intensely partisan political climate, we seem unable to talk calmly about the medical evidence, the history, and the statistical risks either way. Even settled issues involving health, education and public welfare are reopened as political controversies, from opting out of shots to opting out of school in favor of home-schooling.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie who, like Paul, is expected to run for president, found himself backtracking Monday after he told reporters in England that he and his wife had vaccinated their children and considered that important for public health. But, he added, "I also understand that parents need to have some measure of choice in things as well, so that's the balance that the government has to decide." That came after President Obama on television had urged parents to get their children vaccinated, a statement that at other times would not seem bold or controversial.

Christie's spokesman issued a statement saying, "To be clear: the governor believes vaccines are an important public health protection and with a disease like measles there is no question kids should be vaccinated. At the same time different states require different degrees of vaccination, which is why he was calling for balance in which ones government should mandate."

Almost every state allows religious as well as medical and even philosophical exemptions.

Paul, an ophthalmologist, has also clarified that he's not anti-vaccine and "there are times when there can be rules."

Yes. Without schools requiring vaccinations, every student is vulnerable. Yet opposing vaccinations gives some politicians a chance to rail against Big Brother, and bandy the specter of government intrusion into personal lives. It gives Climate Change deniers an opportunity to escalate their war on science. It even gave Hillary Clinton a chance to show off her "Grandma" credentials while tweeting sarcastically that the Earth is round.

Let them pile on to one another, but keep it in perspective. Unless there's legitimate medical reason not to, vaccinate your kids.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Defeating the Islamic State won't be easy, Mr. President

By PAUL MCHALE
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Paul McHale is a former Democratic member of Congress from Pennsylvania, a former assistant secretary of defense, and a retired Marine colonel. He wrote this for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Speaking before the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, last month, Secretary of State John Kerry described global terrorism as "nothing more than criminal anarchy, a nihilism which illegitimately claims an ideological and religious foundation." Is he serious? A de facto Islamic caliphate has now been established in the heart of the Middle East and Kerry sees it as nothing more than a criminal conspiracy. Quick, call the cops.

The Obama administration desperately wants to end wars, not fight them. Me, too. But the reality is that our enemies get a vote—and that's a hard truth that weak "leaders" have failed to grasp throughout modern history. Returning from Munich in 1938, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain wanted to deliver "peace for our time." Instead, by pursuing a policy of appeasement, he ushered in the Second World War—a war that was ultimately fought and won by clear-eyed, tough-minded leaders like Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill.

By consistently articulating a policy of detached complacency—untethered to the battlefield reality in Iraq and Syria—President Barack Obama is doing his best to declare (though not deliver) peace for our time. Like Chamberlain, he's doomed to failure. And much like the period preceding World War II, that failure of presidential leadership places millions of lives in jeopardy.

Do Obama and Kerry really believe that the pathetically weak, disjointed and nearly incoherent actions taken so far by their administration will "degrade and ultimately destroy" the hardened (and increasingly experienced) fighters of the Islamic State? Is there any sign of that success to date? Every military analysis I've seen indicates that the training mission in Iraq has achieved little success—and that the training of opposition forces to fight against the Islamic State in Syria is in even worse shape.

As President John F. Kennedy said, "We can do better."

So here are some thoughts regarding the core elements of a comprehensive strategy to defeat the Islamic State and other mutating forms of Islamic extremism:

Lead from the front. The president needs to toughen up. He's got the necessary rhetorical skills, but six years into office his convictions seem only as deep as his teleprompter. Sober up, sir. There's a war on. You own it. Mess this one up and no one will remember the rest of your legacy. Serious leadership—long overdue—will require that most of the White House national security team be replaced by serious people. Political operatives need not apply for the vacancies.

Recognize the threat. Islamic extremism is not a criminal conspiracy—it is a unified, if often inconsistent ideology of barbaric intolerance. It's not Islam. It's not a part of Islam. It is, in fact, a strategic threat to the fundamental decency of Islam. The American people get that. So stop groveling before the fear of religious intolerance and pursue the necessary policies that will protect the American people. Crush the Islamic State.

Fight the battle of ideas. The Obama administration should use all of its whiz-kid social media skills to challenge the moral and political legitimacy of Islamic State. Inspire young Americans to defend their freedom—online, in print, through protest and by conviction. In the context of individual liberty, aggressively pursue a truthful and relentless comparison between our beliefs and those of Islamic extremism. In that confrontation, our ideals can take the heat.

Build a diplomatic coalition. In the spirit of Roosevelt and Churchill's 1941 Atlantic Charter, Kerry's State Department should draft a short statement of first principles—a robust defense of individual freedom, tolerance and religious liberty—that by design will stand in sharp contrast to the barbarism of the Islamic State. Give it a good name and get it done within two weeks. Coordinate the first draft with three or four close allies. Jointly release it—and then invite the world's nations to sign up. Pass out "I am Charlie" T-shirts at the signing ceremonies.

Put boots on the ground. Define the war aims with clarity—and accept accountability for success. Determine how many U.S. military forces—mostly special operators and combat support personnel—will be required to push the Islamic State back into Syria by the end of the Obama administration. My estimate would be 20,000. Expect casualties. Mentor the Iraqi army at the front lines. Set no deadline for the withdrawal of U.S. forces—but begin planning a U.S. retrograde and anticipate Iraq's future border security requirements. Invite military partners to join in the fight—and make it clear that Europe's domestic security—and future Middle East stability—will be determined by the outcome of this fight.

Anticipate enduring conflict. Islamic extremism will be with us for decades. We can diminish the number of extremists. We can limit their capacity for violence. We can shape our military to address the threat. But it will be a long time before the ideology of Islamic extremism is fully discredited. The American people should be told that truth.

Budget for war. Fight hard and tenaciously for the repeal of sequestration. Explain why that's important—and then budget realistically for the challenges that lie ahead. Consider a dedicated tax increase. In this and every generation, Americans are prepared to sacrifice in defense of their freedom—so long as their leaders are courageous enough to tell them why that sacrifice is necessary. To date, such political courage has been in short supply.

Enable future presidential leadership. Set the conditions during the remaining years of the Obama administration so that the next president can effectively carry on the fight.

Obama wants to deliver peace for our time. Neville Chamberlain and Winston Churchill laid out the options. Now Mr. President, you choose.

We built the middle class, and we can rebuild it

By LEE SAUNDERS
CQ-Roll Call

Lee Saunders is president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. He wrote this for CQ-Roll Call.

Most members of Congress today are millionaires. Their wealth has increased 28 percent since 2007, while that of the average American fell 43 percent.

So when President Barack Obama told members of Congress during his State of the Union address to try living on $15,000 a year if they think it's so easy, the lack of response was telling.

The smackdown was an uncomfortable reminder of how far out of balance our economy is and how many of our elected officials are benefiting from a system rigged to favor only the wealthy and powerful. It's no wonder most lawmakers sat stone-faced after the president's remark, perhaps hoping Americans wouldn't notice this economic anomaly.

But we have noticed and we're outraged. We are tired of being told that if we just work harder, we can get ahead when we know that hard work has very little to do with achieving success in a system that is rigged. There's no guarantee anymore that putting in more hours at work will result in a raise or a promotion. There's no guarantee that getting a college degree will result in anything more than crushing student debt.

A recent Oxfam study found the world's wealthiest 1 percent is on track to own more than the rest of the world combined. The report said the 80 richest people in the world have more combined wealth than the 3.5 billion people at the bottom. This staggering disparity, the authors note, hits working people twice as hard. We have to make do with a tiny slice of the pie and, as the rich accumulate more, the pie itself gets smaller.

It hasn't always been this way. There was a time in our not-so-distant past when poor Americans could work their way into the middle class. There was a time when people in the middle class could afford to buy a home, send their kids to college and save for retirement. Today, middle-class families must make a choice—a home, college or retirement. They no longer can do all three.

This fast-disappearing upward mobility was made possible by the American labor movement, which helped workers gain a fair share of the nation's prosperity through collective bargaining and political activism. Unions were and continue to be the only organizations willing to stand up and fight for working people and the middle class. And it is unions that can get us out of the mess we're in now.

While extremists in Congress refuse to raise the minimum wage, it is unions at the bargaining table who are hammering out contracts that raise wages for working people. As corporate lobbyists seek to eliminate regulations that protect workers, it's the shop steward who fights for a safer workplace. When anti-worker governors come up with another scheme to steal pensions, it is union members who go door to door to warn the public.

The benefits to workers who form a union are concrete and undeniable. Unionized workers earn on average $207 more per week than their nonunion counterparts, according to the latest data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and are more likely to have employer-sponsored health care and access to a guaranteed retirement plan.

At a time when so many Americans are feeling beat down by an economy rigged against them, the peace of mind that comes with a good union job is immeasurable. Unions provide better wages and benefits, job security, and a better standard of living.

Unions have the ability and the track record to rebuild the American middle class and help close the yawning divide between the rich and the rest of us.

Obama acknowledged as much in his State of the Union address, calling for new laws that make it easier for workers to join unions. No one should have to survive in our nation today earning only $15,000 a year.

The New York Times recently reported on a study that shows union workers are just plain happier, and no wonder. Not only do they earn more, but they've got a real voice at work. Unions are the agents of change that our nation so desperately needs.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Republicans and Democrats not good for the US

With the likes of McConnell and Boehner leading the Republican charge for indiscriminate cuts to middle class families and seniors' healthcare, food stamps, unemployment benefits, Social Security and anything else that would even be considered just enough to get by, I daresay one would have to be absolutely nuts to vote Republican. On the other hand, the Democrats' wishy-washy leadership no thanks to Obama and Reid is equally dangerous to the average American. Until both parties sit down and get to work so that they are both on the same page, this nation will continue down the road to ruin.

Our very way of life is threatened because of "one size fits all" legislating by the Republicans and "tax, tax, tax and spend" ideological thinking by the Democrats. These are indeed troubling times and it will take some sort of miracle to get both sides to admit their unyielding stance is hazardous to America's wellbeing. Didn't we elect these people to represent us and do what is best for us? As far as I can see, they've done what is *not* best for us.

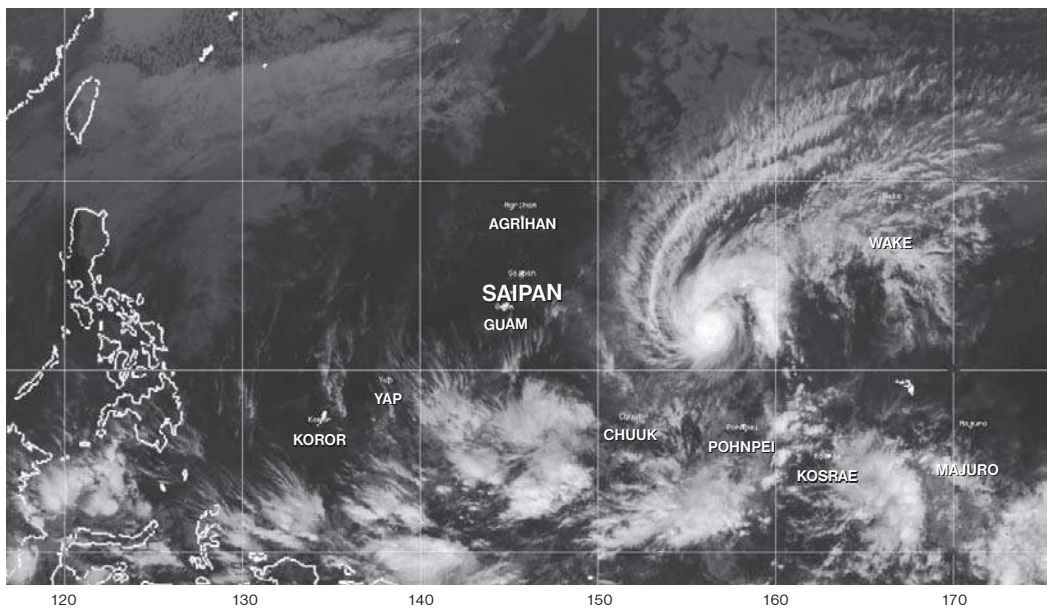
Herb Stark
Mooresville, NC

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Higos (02W) is centered 405 miles north-northwest of Pohnpei at 12N156E with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph and moving toward the west-northwest at 3 mph. Numerous showers and a few thunderstorms are taking place within 120 miles of the center of Higos, while scattered showers extend outward an additional 150 miles from the center. For more detailed information on Typhoon Higos see bulletins issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and from the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. An old frontal boundary extends east-northeastward from 16N160E to beyond the date line at 19N. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 400 miles north of this boundary. This area includes Wake Island. A cold front curves southwestward from near 25N138E to beyond 130E at 21N. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are seen along and northwest of the front to beyond 25N. Converging winds south of the front are generating clouds and scattered showers along and up to 200 miles southeast of the front. A near-equatorial trough extends east-northeastward from EQ133E through a circulation centered southwest of Chuuk near 5N146E then curves northeastward to Typhoon Higos at 12N156E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring south of Koror and Yap south of a line from 3N130E to 4N140E well south of the Marianas between 2N and 8N from 140E to 150E and south of Chuuk and Pohnpei within 150 miles of a line from 2N152E to 4N159E to 8N161E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers near Kosrae across Butaritari and Tarawa Atolls and well southeast of Majuro within 200 miles of a line from 5N164E to 1N174E to 4N180E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼76
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼59
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲54	▼25
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼55
Honolulu	Windy	▲82	▼69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲46	▼39
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲75	▼54
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼69
Melbourne	Sunny	▲91	▼66
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲76	▼63
New York	Ice	▲31	▼27
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼41
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲44	▼39
Pusan	Sunny	▲53	▼34
Rome	Sunny	▲48	▼38
Salem	Rain	▲51	▼45
San Francisco	Showers	▲62	▼48
Seoul	Sunny	▲45	▼27
Tokyo	Sunny	▲47	▼31
Washington, DC	Showers	▲49	▼37

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:14 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
11:29 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:21 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Wednesday	6:44 AM	6:20 PM
Thursday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Friday	6:43 AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	6:21 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:26 AM	9:50 AM
Wednesday	11:15 AM	10:29 AM
Thursday		11:11 AM
Friday	12:05 AM	11:56 AM
Saturday	12:57 AM	12:44 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daiily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

China's president declares war on global gambling

By LINETTE LOPEZ
BUSINESS INSIDER

AP
In this photo taken Nov. 23, 2014, a Chinese visitor waits for the shuttle bus in front of the Venetian Macao casino resorts in Macau.

Gambling is illegal in mainland China, and advertising Macau's casinos to mainlanders is illegal.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has officially declared war on the global gambling industry, warning foreign casinos that Chinese citizens will be gambling much less in China, neighboring countries, and the U.S.

"Some foreign countries see our nation as an enormous market, and we have investigated a series of cases," said Hua Jingfeng, a deputy bureau chief at the Ministry of Public Security. "A fair number of neighboring countries have casinos, and they have set up offices in China to attract and drum up interest from Chinese citizens to go abroad and gamble. This will also be an area that we will crack down on."

In other words, Xi is telling companies around the world that saw their revenue triple when Macau opened up to foreigners that the Chinese gambler will not be following them abroad to countries like Singapore and the Philippines where billions have been spent on new projects to attract those same people.

Asian companies have capitalized on the traveling Chinese gambler in the Philippines, Australia, and especially Singapore. A combination of tax credit and increased gambling revenue in Singapore saved Las Vegas Sands' fourth-quarter earnings. Now that's set to take a hit.

And Chinese gamblers apparently won't be going to Macau as much to gamble, either. Xi's government has sworn to cut down on advertisements—sometimes in the form of annoying text messages—promoting Macau casinos. Visa restrictions will tighten, according to analysts, and even retail gamblers will have their money tracked as officials monitor UnionPay, the only domestic bank card in mainland China.

The latest announcement goes above and beyond the pain Xi's administration has already put Macau's casinos, and the world's casino companies, through over the past year. The president's anticorruption crackdown has slowed the movement of mainlanders to the island—the world's largest gambling center — dramatically.

Gaming revenue in Macau contracted for the first time since foreign companies were allowed to do business on the island in 2002. It plummeted 30 percent in December alone. The junket system, Macau's financing system for high rollers most affected by the anticorruption drive, is on life support after 16 percent of junkets closed in 2014.

So Xi's declaration is coming when companies around the world—from MGM to Las Vegas Sands, from Macau-based companies Melco to SJM Holdings—are at their most vulnerable.

Casinos, especially foreign firms, have given no indication that they saw this coming. On a conference call earlier this week, Steve Wynn, CEO of Wynn Resorts, lamented his company's weak fourth-quarter earnings, and struck an almost defeated tone about the government's control over the future of his business.

"China remains a big question mark. We have more questions than answers, thousands of our Macau employees are anticipating promotion and a better life because of Wynn Palace ... We have learned in the last 12 years to behave in China, and that is to listen carefully to what the leadership says and to conform with the program as we are their guest," said Wynn. "We wait for an announcement from the government with baited breath ... What we are seeing in China is an entrenchment."

Talk to boss about public admonishment in private

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*

Q: I am upset with my supervisor because she recently corrected me in front of my coworkers. Instead of giving me feedback in private, she publicly blamed me for making some errors in a report.

While I accept responsibility for these mistakes, I believe it was disrespectful to point them out in a meeting. This is not the first time my supervisor has done this. How can I talk to her about treating me with more respect?

A: Reprimanding the boss is never a good idea, so don't accuse your supervisor of being disrespectful. That will only start an argument which you cannot win. Instead, try using "I-statements" to help her understand how you felt in this situation, then politely request a different approach in the future.

For example: "I have a favor to ask. Last week, when we discussed my errors during the staff meeting, I felt very embarrassed. Although I understand your concerns, I would appreciate it if we could talk about any future problems in private. Would that be OK with you?"

Most managers understand that public criticism is inappropriate, so hopefully your supervisor will agree to this request. Going forward, if she should happen to slip up and repeat her error, just listen to the feedback, then ask if you could discuss the matter in her office.

On the other hand, if your boss defends the practice of admonishing people in front of their peers, then she either missed Management 101 or is poorly suited for her position. Managers who believe in public reprimands tend to have a punitive leadership style and a high rate of turnover.

Q: One of my coworkers is constantly goofing off, but my manager won't do anything about it. While the rest of us are working, "Emily" just does whatever she pleases. I have gone to my boss several times about this, but he refuses to address the issue. He just keeps saying that we all need to get along. How should I handle this situation?

A: If Emily's laziness is making your own job more difficult, then that's what you should discuss with your manager. For example: "My monthly report is often late because I never get updates from Emily until after the deadline. I've explained this to her, but that hasn't solved the problem. Could you talk with her about this?"

But if you are simply irritated by her slacker ways, then you might as well just let that go. You aren't Emily's boss, and the person who is her boss doesn't seem to care. While your annoyance is understandable, getting all worked up about her slothfulness will only increase your stress level.

Finally, if you have "gone to your manager several times," I can almost guarantee that he is now tired of hearing these complaints. If you continue to repeat them, he might eventually decide that you are the problem. This may not seem fair, but it could easily happen.

Even as US job market picks up, unemployed face frustration

WASHINGTON (AP)—The job market remains a frustrating place for America's 9 million unemployed—perhaps more so as hiring has accelerated along with job postings.

The pace of job growth over the past three months was the fastest in 17 years. The gains spanned nearly every industry, and some employers have finally had to dangle higher pay to attract or retain top talent.

And yet millions of job seekers still can't find work. Some businesses remain slow to fill their openings, awaiting the ideal candidate. Many job seekers lack the skills employers require.

The plight of the unemployed also reflects an economic reality: Even in the best times, the number of job seekers is typically twice the number of job openings.

The January jobs report that the government issued Friday pointed to another factor, too: As hiring strengthens, more people typically start looking for jobs. As the number of job seekers grows, so does competition for work.

The number of openings has reached nearly 5 million, the most since 2001. Yet that's barely more than half the number of people the government counts as unemployed.

"There's always going to be a set of job vacancies, and there are always going to be a set of people transitioning from unemployment to work," said Tara Sinclair, an economics professor at George Washington University. "The transition isn't instantaneous."

For many, the transition can be maddeningly slow. Complaints abound about online job sites that seem to function more as black holes than as gateways to employment. Applicants can't get past online portals to explain gaps in their resumes. Multiple interviews and other steps—even for low-paying jobs—can prolong the process.

Carlie Kozlowich, 23, had three interviews last year with a marketing company for a job she was told would involve "travel" and "events." Only after accepting the job did she learn it involved selling goods at a booth in a Costco. Having amassed roughly $50,000 in debt to earn a college degree, she felt she had to turn it down.

"Three interviews just to say, `Would you like to try a pierogi today?'" she said.

US gas prices jump 13 cents a gallon but could go higher

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average price of a regular gallon of gas jumped 13 cents in the past two weeks to $2.20, ending a sustained drop.

Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said Sunday that a rebound in the price of crude oil caused the run-up at the pump.

However, the price is $1.10 below the mark a year ago, on Feb. 7, 2014.

San Francisco continued to have the highest-priced gas in the Lower 48 states at $2.59 a gallon.

The low average was in Tucson, Arizona, at $1.82. The average price in California is up 9 cents, to $2.53.

Lundberg says pump prices could climb as much as a dime in the near future, unless oil prices show significant declines.

Nation

Islamic State hostage's family still hopeful she is alive

PRESCOTT, Ariz. (AP)—The parents of a 26-year-old American who has been held hostage for more than a year by Islamic State extremists were clinging to hope Sunday that their daughter is alive, having yet to receive information confirming otherwise.

Family friend Todd Geiler said that the parents of Kayla Jean Mueller of Prescott, Arizona, are in a very "fragile state."

"The strain of not knowing where their daughter is at and whether or not she is alive or not is something that is starting to wear on them," Geiler said. "But if we had to go on ahead and say in a word how they're doing, they're hopeful for her safe return."

The parents are asking the nation and the world to pray for Mueller's return, he said. "This thing, it's time to have an ending. It's time to bring Kayla home to her parents and her family," Geiler said.

The Islamic State group said Friday that Mueller died in a Jordanian airstrike. The government of Jordan dismissed the statement as propaganda. U.S. officials said they have not seen any evidence to corroborate the report.

Mueller is the only known remaining U.S. hostage held by the Islamic State group. She was taken hostage in August 2013 while leaving a hospital in Syria.

Her parents and a few close friends kept Mueller's situation a closely guarded secret to ensure her safety. Since her identity was publicized Friday, they have stayed out of public view but released a short statement addressed to Islamic State.

"You told us that you treated Kayla as your guest, as your guest her safety and well-being remains your responsibility," Mueller's family said.

Meanwhile, the road leading to their Prescott home remains blocked off by Yavapai County Sheriff's Office vehicles. In downtown Prescott, Mueller is on the minds of most people. Tourists stop to look at a handmade "Pray for Kayla" sign at the corner of a busy street.

Mueller is an aid worker who previously volunteered with organizations in India, Israel and the Palestinian territories. She had been working in Turkey assisting Syrian refugees, according to a 2013 article in The Daily Courier, her hometown newspaper.

"She knew where she was headed," Geiler said. "She knew what she wanted to do. There was compassion and caring for those less fortunate. She always wanted to help somebody in need."

AP

In this May 30, 2013, photo, Kayla Mueller is shown after speaking to a group in Prescott, Ariz. A statement that appeared on a militant website commonly used by the Islamic State group claimed that Mueller was killed in a Jordanian airstrike on Friday, Feb. 6, 2015, on the outskirts of the northern Syrian city of Raqqa, the militant group's main stronghold.

Police ID man they say killed 2 adults, 2 children, himself

DOUGLASVILLE, Ga. (AP)—Police say they have identified the gunman who took his own life after killing four people and injuring two in a quiet neighborhood near Atlanta.

Cedric G. Prather, 33, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound after shooting his ex-wife, another adult and two children Saturday afternoon in Douglasville, about 20 miles west of Atlanta, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office said Sunday. A hometown for Prather was not given.

The sheriff's office also identified the adults killed as Latoya A. Andrews, Prather's ex-wife; and Joseph Terry Brown. Both were 33 years old. A 7-year-old child died at the scene, and a 9-year-old was taken to a hospital but also died, the sheriff's office said in a statement.

Two other children, an 8-year-old and a 15-year-old, were in critical but stable condition at a hospital, the statement said.

Authorities haven't identified any of the children who were shot.

Horrified neighbors called 911 and then tried to help the severely injured victims as best they could before rescuers arrived.

A news conference is planned for Monday in Douglasville, where authorities plan to share more details of how the shooting transpired. Officials hoped to share something about the motive during the news conference, Lt. Glenn Daniel told The Associated Press. Daniel said he didn't have any information about the gun used in the crime.

Teresa Carter, 59, said she heard the gunfire from inside her home but didn't see what happened. Carter said she often saw the children playing in the driveway and around the neighborhood. They enjoyed petting her dog.

"I heard shots, and I heard the girl scream," Carter said. "And then I heard four more shots."

Brandon Hallman was working on a car a few houses down when the shooting started.

"I heard a couple quick shots, you know, back to back to back. Went out there and, you know, looked and it was already over," Hallman said. "We just grabbed some towels and kind of went down there to try and help before the paramedics got here."

Another neighbor, Angela Ansah, struggled to explain to her own children what happened to their slain friends a few houses down. Ansah said some of the children targeted Saturday often came over to her house to play with her own children.

"These are children I see every day, every blessed day," Ansah said.

Once-paralyzed player is rapidly climbing political ladder

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Every step used to be a miracle for Adam Taliaferro. Now the onetime Penn State defensive back—whose NFL dreams were ended by a devastating spinal cord injury—is running.

Fifteen years after a hit left him motionless on the Ohio Stadium turf, Taliaferro is one of New Jersey's newest lawmakers, a temporary fill-in who plans to seek a full term in November.

It has been a rapid rise for Taliaferro, an accidental politician whose remarkable story and deep desire to help others put him on the political radar four years ago. First elected as a county freeholder in 2011, Taliaferro was sworn in last week to replace an Assembly member who stepped down.

Taking the oath of office was just the latest in a series of unexpected steps for Taliaferro, who was paralyzed from the neck down in 2000 and given little chance of ever walking again. The injury set him on a path of service instead of Super Bowls.

"It 100 percent changed me," Taliaferro said. "Before my injury what was important to me was my family but also football—it was my dream to play in the NFL. It really teaches you to appreciate everything."

It took eight months for Taliaferro to learn to walk again. By then, he'd been inundated with donations intended to help him pay for his care. Instead, he used the money to establish a foundation to give emotional and financial help to people with similar injuries. So far, the Adam Taliaferro Foundation has distributed more than $1 million.

"Everyone that we help I see myself in them," he said. "My biggest thought is I want everyone to have the same chance of recovery I had."

It was the foundation that put Taliaferro on Senate President Steve Sweeney's radar. Taliaferro says Sweeney told him he could help more people as an elected official and encouraged him to run for Gloucester County freeholder as a Democrat.

That was the first time he considered elected office, and the "ability to help people with problems" serves as his guiding political philosophy, he said.

In a district with a wide gap between the highest and lowest earners Taliaferro will have his work cut out for him, said his predecessor, Celeste Riley.

"I think he'll do it. He's a hard worker and people like to have an example of what it means to work hard and face adversity," she said.

Taliaferro, 33, was born in Pittsburgh, but moved to Voorhees, New Jersey, as a child. After attending Eastern High School, he had scholarship offers from 30 universities to play football but the choice came down to Penn State and Tennessee. The decisive factor, he said, was that Penn State was close enough to home for his parents to come watch him play.

ACROSS THE NATION

Another dayslong snowstorm threatens to clobber New England

BOSTON (AP)—Winter-weary New England braced Sunday for another round of snow that threatened to bear down on the region into the workweek and pile up to 2 feet in some areas. As light snow began falling by the afternoon, drivers were warned to stay off the roads and cancellations were posted for schools and court dockets Monday. The National Weather Service issued winter storm warnings for central New York, the western Catskills and much of New England through early Tuesday. "I'm frustrated. The last thing I want to be talking about is another 24 inches of snow. I want to move on to something else," Boston Mayor Marty Walsh said at City Hall. "It's unprecedented ... Maybe up in Alaska or Buffalo, they have this amount of snow and they're used to it."

Evacuations remain after wildfire chars California towns

SWALL MEADOWS, Calif. (AP)—Ira Hanson milled around an evacuation center near tiny Swall Meadows on Sunday afternoon, not quite sure what to do after learning that the dream home he and his late wife had built 30 years earlier was damaged in a wildfire that consumed 40 homes and buildings. Sheriff's deputies had banged on the door and urged him to get out less than 48 hours earlier, and he'd fled the house with little more than his medications and a pillow. Officials later told him that fire crews had to knock down one of the home's walls in an effort to save another house next door, but he had yet to see the damage. "It's unbelievable," said Hanson, 79. "It's like having a nightmare and you're going to wake up any minute and it won't be true."

Teen arrested in mall shooting; only 1 of 3 victims targeted

MONROEVILLE, Pa. (AP)—A teenager who police say opened fire at a Pittsburgh-area mall, shooting his intended target as well as a couple, was arrested early Sunday after police used surveillance footage and an Instagram photo to link the suspect to the shooting. Gunfire erupted inside the men's department on the lower level of Macy's department store at the Monroeville Mall about 7:30 p.m. Saturday, sending panicked shoppers running. The gunman fled but police say they were able to identify him by matching surveillance video with an image of the suspect on Instagram, according to the criminal complaint. Tarod Thornhill, 17, was arrested at a home in Brackenridge about 3:15 a.m. Sunday. He was being held at the Allegheny County Jail pending arraignment on charges as an adult of aggravated assault, attempted homicide and recklessly endangering other people. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for Feb. 18, according to court documents.

Asia

PH, Indonesian leaders to discuss territorial spats

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines will raise its concerns over China's land reclamation in disputed reefs and discuss Manila's new peace deal with Muslim rebels with Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, who arrived Sunday for a brief visit, an official said.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said President Benigno Aquino III will discuss with Jokowi how their Southeast Asian nations can strengthen defense and maritime cooperation and bolster trade and investment.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said the Philippines' concern over China's land reclamation in disputed reefs in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea will be raised in the talks with Jokowi.

The two nations are among the founding members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a 10-nation bloc, which has been helping resolve the long-unresolved territorial rifts involving China, Taiwan and four ASEAN member state — Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Last month, del Rosario urged fellow ASEAN foreign ministers to seek international support and demand that China immediately stop the land reclamation, warning the regional bloc's credibility may be undermined if it remains silent on the issue.

Del Rosario told the ministers that China's massive reclamations could threaten freedom of navigation and the vast offshore region's biodiversity.

The Philippines, Vietnam and Malaysia have protested the reclamation, worried that China can transform the emerging islands into offshore military bases to reinforce Beijing's vast territorial claims, according to Philippine officials.

Indonesia and China have no formal dispute, though in 2010, Indonesia's navy came close to a shooting encounter with Chinese vessels that had entered waters off Jakarta's Natuna island gas field near the sea. Indonesian officials said the incident was an intrusion by fishermen and not part of a territorial dispute.

Indonesia's support to the Philippine government's peace talks with Muslim rebels in the south will also be tackled in talks with Jokowi, del Rosario said.

The Philippines signed with the largest Muslim rebel group a new autonomy deal for minority Muslims in the south of the largely Roman Catholic nation. The deal came under fire when some of the Muslim rebel group's fighters were implicated in a Jan. 25 clash that left 44 Filipino police commandos dead.

TransAsia gives money to victims' families for funeral costs

AP

Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou, left, meets with relatives of those aboard TransAsia Airways Flight 235 at a funeral home in Taipei, Taiwan, Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015.

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—TransAsia Airways representatives met Sunday with relatives of the victims of last week's plane crash in Taiwan to discuss compensation after it began distributing money to families of the deceased for funeral costs.

At the river crash site, divers tried to find the bodies of the three people still missing by using metal detectors to locate their watches or seat belts.

At least 40 people died after the propeller-jet crashed into the muddy Keelung River minutes after takeoff Wednesday from Taipei's airport. Fifteen of the 58 people aboard the plane were rescued.

Preliminary investigations indicate the pilots of the TransAsia Airways ATR 72 shut off a running engine after its other engine went idle, a move that aviation experts said was an error.

A spokesman for France-based plane maker ATR said Sunday that their aircraft were equipped and designed to fly on a single engine. The spokesman spoke on condition of anonymity in line with company rules.

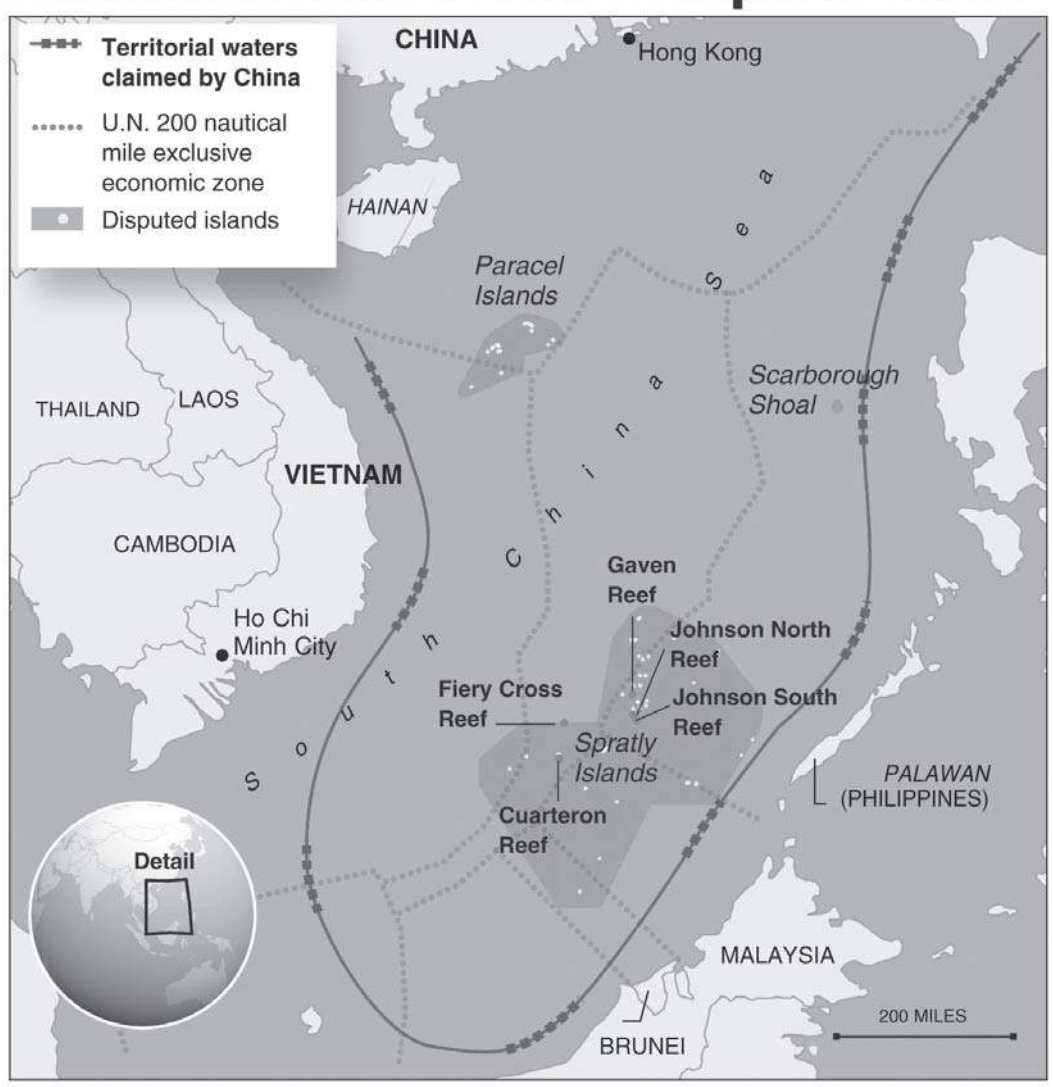
The bulk of the passengers were from the Chinese mainland.

A TransAsia spokeswoman, Fang Chia-wen, said a second meeting would be held Wednesday to discuss compensation matters further. She said the airline had already begun distributing 1.2 million Taiwan dollars ($38,000) per victim to families for funeral expenses.

Premier Mao Chi-kuo told Taiwan's private Formosa TV on Sunday that the priority was to find the three missing people. Longer-term, he said the country needs to work on improving "our civil aviation in terms of its management and training."

Huang Han-chung, a member of the underwater search team, also told the station that rescuers were using metal detectors, which had already been used to locate pieces of wreckage.

China's man-made islands in disputed waters



Source: U.S. State Department, CIA World Factbook, Javier Zarracina, Lou Spirito - Los Angeles Times
Graphic: Tribune News Service

ASIAN BRIEFS

China president plans to make 1st state visit to US

BEIJING (AP)—A top Chinese diplomat has said President Xi Jinping plans to make his first state visit to the U.S. later this year, Chinese state media reported Monday. The official China Daily newspaper quoted China's ambassador to the U.S. Cui Tiankai as saying Chinese and U.S. officials are discussing the visit. Cui told Chinese reporters Sunday that no date had been determined yet. U.S. National Security Advisor Susan Rice said Friday that the U.S. has invited both Xi and Japanese President Shinzo Abe for state visits. Xi last met with U.S. President Barack Obama in November after an Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Beijing. The two also met in Rancho Mirage, California, during a more informal visit to the U.S. in June 2013.

2 hostages say they plotted to stab gunman in Sydney siege

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Two staff members of a Sydney cafe revealed in interviews broadcast Sunday how they plotted to stab a gunman who held them hostage during a 16-hour siege in December, while two others described how they escaped the ordeal. Joel Herat, 21, and Jarrod Morton-Hoffman, 19, said in paid interviews broadcast by Nine Network television that they armed themselves with box cutters after gunman Man Horan Monis took them and 16 other people hostage in the Lindt Cafe in downtown Sydney. "I've got this knife in my pocket and I know Joel has a knife in his pocket and we are so close, we can do this," Morton-Hoffman said. Morton-Hoffman said if someone had jumped Monis and pinned his arms, "I would stab him in the jugular" artery in his neck.

AirAsia jet turns back to Malaysia due to technical problem

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—An AirAsia X flight heading from Malaysia to Saudi Arabia turned back shortly after takeoff Sunday due to a technical problem, circling for hours before landing safely back in Kuala Lumpur, the long-haul budget carrier said. The incident came after an AirAsia plane crashed into the Java Sea on Dec. 28 while flying from the Indonesian city of Surabaya to Singapore, killing all 162 people on board. That was the first fatal accident for AirAsia, the region's top budget carrier, which was formed in 2001. AirAsia X is the group's long-haul arm. After Sunday's incident, group Chief Executive Kamarudin Meranun said the jet's auto-thrust system malfunctioned about 45 minutes after takeoff. He said the pilots then switched to manual thrust and could have continued with the flight, but decided to turn back since it was still early in the nearly 10-hour trip to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

North Korea test-fires 5 short-range missiles into the sea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea test-fired five short-range missiles into the sea on Sunday in its second such weapons test this year, a South Korean defense official said, amid dimming prospects for the resumption of high-level talks between the rival countries.

The missiles, fired from a North Korean coastal town, flew about 200 kilometers (125 miles) before landing in waters off the country's east coast, a South Korean Defense Ministry official said on condition of anonymity, citing department rules.

North Korea routinely tests missiles, rockets and artillery, but the latest launches came with the two Koreas at odds over terms for a possible summit meeting between their leaders. The two countries last month floated the idea of the summit, which would be the third such meeting since they were divided 70 years ago.

North Korea separately told the U.S. last month that it was willing to impose a temporary moratorium on its nuclear tests if Washington cancels joint military drills with South Korea. But the U.S. has rejected the overture, calling it an "implicit threat."

The South Korean defense official said Sunday's launches were the North's second missile firings this year.

The North said Saturday that it had test-fired a new anti-ship cruise missile, and that the nation's leader, Kim Jong Un, observed the firing. It did not say when the launch took place, but the South Korean official said it happened Friday. The official said it wasn't immediately known whether the missiles fired Sunday were the same type launched two days earlier.

World

Officials: 25 people killed in Egyptian soccer match riot

CAIRO (AP)—A riot broke out Sunday night outside of a major soccer game in Egypt, with a stampede and fighting between police and fans killing at least 25 people, authorities said.

The riot, only three years after similar violence killed 74 people, began ahead of a match between Egyptian Premier League clubs Zamalek and ENPPI at Air Defense Stadium east of Cairo. Such attacks in the past have sparked days of protests pitting the country's hardcore fans against police officers in a nation already on edge after years of revolt and turmoil.

Two security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said at least 25 people were killed.

The violence comes as police face increasing scrutiny following the shooting death of a female protester in Cairo and the arrest of protesters under a law heavily restricting demonstrations. President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi has pledged to bring stability to Egypt amid bombings and attacks by Islamic militants, but also has said Egypt's emergency situation meant that some violations of human rights were inevitable, if regrettable.

AP

Soccer fans hold lit flares at the stand as they watch a match between Egyptian Premier League clubs Zamalek and ENPPI at Air Defense Stadium in a suburb east of Cairo, Egypt, Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015.

Egypt's public prosecutor issued a statement ordering an investigation. After convening an emergency meeting to discuss the violence, the Cabinet announced that it was postponing upcoming soccer matches until further notice, Egypt's state television said.

What caused the violence wasn't immediately clear. Security officials said Zamalek fans tried to force their way into the match without tickets, sparking clashes. Fans have only recently been allowed back at matches and the Interior Ministry planned to let only 10,000 fans into the stadium, which has a capacity of about 30,000, the officials said.

Zamalek fans, known as "White Knights," posted on their group's official Facebook page that the violence began because authorities only opened one narrow, barbed-wire door to let them in. They said that sparked pushing and shoving that later saw police officers fire tear gas and birdshot.

A fan who tried to attend the game, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity out of fear of being targeted by police, said that the stampede was caused by police who fired tear gas at the tightly packed crowd.

"Those who fell down could not get back up again," the man said.

The Zamalek fan group later posted pictures on Facebook it claimed were of dead fans, including the names of 22 people it said had been killed. The AP could not immediately verify the images.

Egypt's hard-core soccer fans, known as Ultras, frequently clash with police inside and outside of stadiums. They are deeply politicized and many participated in the country's 2011 uprising that forced out President Hosni Mubarak. Many consider them as one of the most organized movements in Egypt after the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood, which the government later outlawed as a terrorist organization following the 2013 military overthrow of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi.

The deadliest riot in Egypt soccer history came during a 2012 match when Port Said's Al-Masry team hosted Cairo's Al-Ahly. That riot, at the time the deadliest worldwide since 1996, killed 74 people, mostly Al-Ahly fans.

Peace in Ukraine is goal of four-nation talks in Minsk

BERLIN (AP)—As Russian-backed separatists gain ground in eastern Ukraine, efforts to broker peace appeared to gain momentum Sunday, with leaders of Germany, France, Russia and Ukraine announcing plans for four-way talks this week.

The proposed meeting Wednesday in the Belarusian capital of Minsk emerged from a phone call between German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Francois Hollande, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko.

The aim is to revive the much-violated peace plan both sides agreed to in Minsk last September, and end a war that has now killed more than 5,300 people according to United Nations estimates.

Although the United States won't be at the negotiating table, a growing clamor in Washington to arm Ukraine will be on the minds of those present in Minsk. U.S. officials have said President Barack Obama is rethinking his previous opposition to sending weapons to Ukraine, despite fears of triggering a proxy war between Washington and Moscow.

While senior diplomats from the four countries meet in Berlin to prepare for the summit, Merkel is expected to brief U.S. officials in Washington on Monday during a previously scheduled trip.

"It's a fortuitous coincidence that Merkel is going to Washington and whatever she does, Obama will be informed," said Volker Perthes, director of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs. The threat of U.S. arms shipments won't harm the talks, he added, although "if the diplomatic efforts fail then the option to ship arms becomes more likely."

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry was keen Sunday to dispel the notion of a trans-Atlantic rift, saying U.S. and its European allies are "united in our diplomacy" on Ukraine. Speaking at an international security conference in Munich, he said the U.S. supports the efforts by France and Germany.

"There is no division, there is no split," Kerry said. "I keep hearing people trying to create one. We are united, we are working closely together."

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, speaking alongside Kerry, said he considers delivering weapons "not just highly risky but counterproductive."

But Republican Sen. John McCain, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, insisted in Munich that "we must provide defensive arms to Ukraine."

"If we help Ukrainians increase the military cost to the Russian forces that have invaded their country, how long can Putin sustain a war that he tells his people is not happening?"

UN envoy says Yemen national talks will resume amid crisis

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemen will resume national talks over its future, the U.N. envoy to the country said Sunday, just days after Shiite rebels dissolved parliament and formally took power.

Those talks Monday will include Abdel-Malek al-Houthi, whose Houthi rebels stormed into the capital, Sanaa, and elsewhere in September before besieging the president and seizing total control of the Arab world's poorest country on Friday, envoy Jamal Benomar said.

"I am happy to announce to you that all political parties have agreed to return to the table of the dialogue," Benomar told journalists at a Sanaa hotel. "The United Nations is committed to take Yemen out of this crisis."

Benomar did not elaborate.

The Houthis are under mounting domestic and international pressure. Late Saturday, the party of former president Ali Abdullah Saleh—the Houthis' main ally—added its voice to the growing opposition to the takeover and called for a return to the dialogue moderated by Benomar.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the announcement and called on the parties "to negotiate in good faith and in the spirit of compromise" to complete the transition to democracy, according to a statement from the U.N. spokesman's office.

On Sunday, provincial leaders in Maarib east of Sanaa decided that they would resist any attempt by the Houthis to seize the energy-rich province east of Sanaa. The Houthis have been preparing a campaign to capture the province, but the emergence of a strong tribal alliance there as well as a heavy presence by al-Qaida's branch in Yemen have dissuaded them from pressing ahead.

Yemen is home to one of al-Qaida's most active branches. Militants target army and security forces on a near-daily basis across much of the country, and U.S. drone attacks targeting the militants have killed civilians, fueling popular resentment.

The Shiite Houthis have clashed with al-Qaida militants, who are Sunni and backed by powerful tribes in northern Yemen.

The Houthi takeover has also stoked secessionist sentiments in the south, raising fears of a repeat of the 1994 civil war, when the formerly independent south attempted to break away from its union with the north, forged four years earlier.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israeli leader faces pressure to cancel US Congress speech

JERUSALEM (AP)—A national leader's appearance before the U.S. Congress is usually a source of pride and unity. But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's planned trip to Washington—opposed by the White House and many Democrats—has Israel in uproar.The Israeli leader faces growing calls to cancel the visit as rivals accuse him of risking Israel's relations with the United States in hopes of winning extra votes in next month's Israeli parliamentary election.But Netanyahu has shown no signs of backing down, saying Sunday he would "do everything" to prevent U.S.-led international negotiators from reaching a "bad and dangerous agreement" with Iran over its nuclear program.

France detains 6 suspected in jihadi network

PARIS (AP)—Police detained six suspected extremists in southwest France on Sunday in the second such sweep in five days, part of an effort aimed at snuffing out networks of Muslim radicals sending fighters abroad—stepped up since January attacks in Paris. Interior Ministry spokesman Pierre-Henry Brandet said the six, arrested around Albi and Toulouse, were suspected of helping to finance jihadi networks that recruit youth for fighting in Syria or Iraq. Recruiters and others who help French residents travel to battlefronts also are being targeted. The arrests came on the demand of anti-terrorism judges investigating a case involving terrorism financing, a ministry statement said.

Focus

Trial comes for Marine accused of killing 'American Sniper'

AP

This combination of photos from the Routh family and the Erath County Sheriff's Office shows Eddie Ray Routh. The former Marine is accused of killing Navy SEAL sniper Chris Kyle and Chad Littlefield on Feb. 2, 2013.

By ALLEN G. BREED and JAMIE STENGLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

STEPHENVILLE, Texas (AP)—Eddie Ray Routh had been talking crazy for a while. So when he showed up on his sister's doorstep one afternoon two Februarys ago and claimed to have shot two men, she didn't know what to think.

But when Laura Blevins saw the big black custom pickup truck in the driveway, not Eddie's Volkswagen Beetle, her stomach tightened. He asked if she was with him "in hell," then drove off into the fading light.

"I'm terrified for my life," she breathlessly told a 911 dispatcher. "I don't know if he's being honest with me."

It wasn't long before she got her answer.

Routh, a 27-year-old Iraq War veteran, is scheduled to stand trial Wednesday, charged with capital murder in the slayings of Chad Littlefield and former Navy SEAL Chris Kyle, whose memoir "American Sniper" is now an Academy Award-nominated movie. The two men had taken the ex-Marine to a shooting range in an attempt to help him battle post-traumatic stress disorder and other personal demons besetting him.

Routh's attorneys are planning to argue that he was insane. Many expect PTSD from his Iraq tour and a relief mission to earthquake-stricken Haiti to be another narrative thread in that defense.

But with Kyle's personal story the subject of a blockbuster currently packing them in at cinemas near and far, Routh's defenders wonder whether he can get a fair trial.

Although it appears that Kyle and Routh hadn't met before that fatal day in February 2013, they had a lot in common.

Both had attended high school southwest of Dallas in the town of Midlothian, the self-proclaimed "Cement Capital of Texas." Each had played football for the Midlothian Panthers and been involved with the Future Farmers of America, though 14 years apart.

And, most importantly, both ended up in the military and went to war.

After a brief stint in college and a flirtation with rodeo bronc riding, the 6-foot-2, 230-pound Kyle joined the Navy and qualified for its elite special forces unit. As a sniper with SEAL Team 3, he would rack up, by his own count, more than 300 kills and earn two Silver Stars, the military's third-highest honor for valor.

The father of two left the Navy in 2009, following four tours in Iraq. Three years later, he published his best-selling memoir, "American Sniper."

Routh's path would be paved with far less glory.

By most accounts, he was a middling student and a bit of a troublemaker. Kc Bernard, a former security guard at Midlothian High, remembers Routh as a decent defensive lineman, but easy to anger.

"He had a chip on his shoulder," says Bernard, who recalls a heart-to-heart with Routh outside the school gym after the teen had had a falling out with his parents.

"I know for a fact that his home life wasn't great," says Bernard, who now teaches social studies in Dallas. "They did not get along."

But by senior year, Routh knew what he wanted to do with his life. Although a photo in the 2006 Midlothian High yearbook shows a buzz-cut Routh chatting with an Army recruiter, he had his heart set on the Marines.

"I want to be one of the few and the proud," he told the photographer.

Not long after graduation, Routh—also 6-2, but about 50 pounds lighter than Kyle—was off to boot camp in California. By September 2007, he was in the Middle East.

In a conversation with his parents shortly before deploying, he reportedly expressed concerns about having to use his weapon.

"He said, 'Dad, how are you going to feel about me if I have to kill somebody?'" his mother, Jodi Routh, told a writer from Men's Health magazine before a judge imposed a gag order in the case. "Our response was, of course, 'Eddie, this is a war. You kill them before they can kill you.'"

A few months later, his parents told the magazine, he called home and suggested that something bad had happened while he was out on patrol.

"How would you feel if I shot a kid?" they said he asked.

But family and friends say Routh was more disturbed by what he saw during a later deployment—in earthquake-ravaged Haiti.

In January 2010, Routh was attached to the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit as part of Operation Unified Response, sent to the island nation. They found a country in ruins, with about a quarter million dead—many of them stacked in rotting piles along the muddy roads.

Routh talked of being forbidden by an officer to give his rations to a starving boy—and of things much worse.

"He wasn't prepared for what he was doing out there," his father told London's Daily Mail for an article published last month. "Fishing hundreds of bodies—men, women, children—out of the ocean, piling them up and throwing them into mass graves."

Routh left the Marines as a corporal that summer and floated around—a brief stint with a military contractor, doing odd jobs for a real estate agent, cabinet-making, building storage units. He was diagnosed with PTSD the following summer, according to medical records viewed by Men's Health.

His drinking, which had begun in his teens, got worse.

In September 2012, Routh was transported to Green Oaks Hospital for psychiatric care after his mother told police he'd threatened to kill himself and family. Police had found him wandering—barefoot, shirtless and reeking of alcohol.

"Eddie stated he was hurting and that his family does not understand what he has been through," the police report said.

His parents and sister have told reporters that Eddie claimed to be a vampire or werewolf, and complained that a tapeworm was eating out his insides.

Routh would go back to Green Oaks at least one more time. On Jan. 30, 2013, his mother took him to the Veteran's Administration hospital.

Despite her pleas that he be admitted, doctors sent him home.

To the Iraqi insurgents who'd placed a bounty on his head, Chris Kyle was "al-Shaitan Ramadi"—the "devil of Ramadi." But to Jodi Routh, he was an angel.

In search of another mission after leaving the SEALs, Kyle helped create a program to help rehabilitate wounded and troubled veterans through exercise. Jodi Routh worked as an aide at the Kyle kids' school, and she asked if he would take her son on.

Kyle and Littlefield—a neighbor and hunting buddy who also volunteered his time with veterans—decided to take Routh shooting. It was Feb. 2, 2013.

In Kyle's black pickup, they drove to Rough Creek Lodge and Resort, which sits on 11,000 acres of rolling hills scattered with scraggly trees and prairie grasses. In addition to luxury accommodations, it has hunting areas and a 1,000-yard shooting range.

Around 5 p.m., a resort employee discovered the bodies. Kyle and Littlefield lay on the ground amid scattered weapons; each had been shot several times.

About 45 minutes later, Routh pulled up at his sister's Midlothian home in Kyle's truck.

Laura Blevins told police that Eddie "was out of his mind saying people were sucking his soul and that he could smell the pigs." He told her he'd "traded his soul" for the pickup.

He'd killed Kyle and Littlefield, Routh allegedly admitted to his sister and her husband, and later to Texas Rangers. Echoing the advice his parents had given him before he left for Iraq, Gaines Blevins says his brother-in-law told him he'd "killed them before they could kill him."

After leading police on a brief chase, Routh was arrested on Interstate 35 near Lancaster. In an interview with the Texas Rangers, Routh said he understood what he'd done and wanted to apologize to the men's families.

"It wasn't a want to," he said in a recording played in court. "It was a need to, to get out of that situation out there today or I was going to be the one out there to get my head shot off."

"You know what you did today is wrong, right?" the ranger asked.

"Yes, sir," Routh replied.

That evening, police blocked off the street and told Routh's neighbor Danny Elizondo to stay in his house.

The Eddie he knew was a normal guy who came to neighborhood barbecues and asked if Elizondo, who painted cars, would redo his VW "bug" in camouflage. Routh had complained of flashbacks, but Elizondo had never known him to be violent or delusional.

"Eddie would come to my house and sit out there and talk to me and tell me stuff," he says. "The bombing and stuff, the bodies on the side ... kids, out when they were going through patrols. Kids out there kind of hungry and stuff."

He figures something out at Rough Creek made him snap.

"I just have a feeling that Eddie went to that rifle range ... and he heard the shelling again, and something triggered him off," says Elizondo.

Many former Marines aren't buying it, some expressing their doubts in angry, profane online posts. And records obtained by The Associated Press suggest they're right to be skeptical. Routh was a small-arms technician, also known as an armorer. Veterans say a support person like that would not have been out on patrol.

Raymond Routh was quoted as saying his son claimed to have helped guard prisoners at Balad Air Base. A 2013 New Yorker article said Routh had "witnessed several mortar attacks on the base; once, while he was on the phone with Raymond, sirens began blaring, and he said that he had to take cover."

But Marine records indicate that Routh was attached to Combat Logistics Battalion 8, based in Fallujah—more than an hour south of Balad. Haley Carter, who was a 2nd lieutenant with the unit during that tour and helped oversee the morning reports, said Routh's story makes no sense.

"I don't know why we would send an armorer to Balad ... when there are plenty of MPs who have the training to guard prisoners," Carter, who left the Marines as a captain in 2013, told the AP. "The whole thing seems funky to me."

The unit's command chronology, a detailed official account of the deployment obtained by AP, shows none of its Marines assigned to Balad during Routh's service. The portion of the chronology covering the first several months of that tour was not available, a Marine archivist said.

As for the Haiti mission, the 22nd MEU chronology shows that while Marines helped distribute food, water and medical aid, there is no mention of burials. It also appears from the narrative that the command element, to which Routh was attached, never left the assault ship USS Bataan.

The only document that mentioned Routh by name was a "debarkation roster" dated April 1, 2010—the end date of his deployment.

"There's no information that we have at this time that can confirm or refute his claims of being in those particular locations and doing those particular tasks," said Capt. Stewart Coles, a spokesman for the II Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

With area theaters showing the Oscar-nominated movie about Kyle's life—and alluding to his death, in a brief on-screen note and footage from a funeral motorcade—defense attorney J. Warren St. John has expressed concern that Routh can't get a fair trial in Erath County.

On a recent rainy afternoon, people lined up outside the Cinemark Cinema 6 in Stephenville for tickets to see "American Sniper," starring Bradley Cooper. That show and the next quickly sold out, and management has been adding an extra screen on weekends to meet demand.

Like others in the crowd, Elby Cato has received a jury summons. He says the movie won't affect his ability to be impartial.

"Can he get a fair trial here? You bet," said Cato, 48. "I think a lot of people have military kids here, and they understand what they're going through. ... He's going to jail, but I feel like he needs to have a lighter sentence because of it—and help."

Moviegoer Janet Huggins has given a lot of thought to PTSD, and whether a non-combat veteran like Routh has a right to use it as a defense. But she recognizes that it is "a terrible disease."

"They are all victims," said Huggins, 56, a collections manager, also called for jury duty. "Eddie's a victim. Chad Littlefield's a victim, and so is Chris. And then you've got the families. Everybody's going through their own hell."

Overdrive

Good news for planet Earth! Here are four alt-energy vehicles that manufacturers have unveiled so far in 2015.

The 2015 Chevrolet Bolt EV Concept all electric vehicle. LUKE RAY/CHEVROLET

Mercedes-Benz C 350 Plug-In Hybrid. MERCEDES-BENZ USA

Four EVs to charge up your life

By JEAN JENNINGS
JeanKnowsCars.com

CHEVROLET BOLT CONCEPT

This small but mighty Chevy is still in concept form, although it's expected to go into production next year. The promise of a 200-mile range and a price of $30,000 is as fetching as its metallic orange paint job. But then, open the doors and this is the interior? Wowsa! Sexy, space age, and within fiscal striking distance! It should be a popular choice.

The all-new 2016 Chevrolet Volt electric car with extended range, showcasing a sleeker, sportier design that offers 50 miles of EV range, greater efficiency and stronger acceleration. CHEVROLET

2016 CHEVROLET VOLT

A Tesla for the people? Well, some might think so. The original Volt hit the market four years ago. The folks at Chevy have been refining the battery, style, interior tech, and everything else customers told them they liked and didn't like about it. (Volt owners are cultish in their devotion.) Now out in a 2.0, this sweet electric ride has a range of 50 miles on a charge, a host of driver awareness and assistance technologies _ including forward collision alert _ and tons of tech such as 4G LTE wireless hotspot in the car, an inductive charger that you just lay your phone on, and lots more. More on this car here: http://www.jeanknowscars.com/car-life/events/2016-chevrolet-volt/.

2016 MERCEDES-BENZ C350 PLUG-IN HYBRID

Green luxury has arrived! This plug-in hybrid is sporty and fast. It's comfy and luxurious on the inside as you'd expect from a Mercedes C-Class, but with less gas-consumption guilt and up to 20 miles of range on electricity alone. In fact, that zoomy interior will no doubt benefit from the quiet of an electric ride. Finally the high-thread-count crowd gets a plug-in ride.

The 2016 Hyundai Sonata Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle. HYUNDAI

2016 HYUNDAI SONATA PHEV

First things first. PHEV means Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle. This car is a plug-in hybrid version of Hyundai's already popular Sonata. It's a lot like the fossil-fuel-sipping Sonata but with some aerodynamic improvements, netting it an electric-only range of 22 miles. Connect the car to your phone via Bluetooth, download an app, and you can connect to the car for a health report and to schedule charging it when rates are lowest.

Jean Jennings is a veteran automotive journalist with three decades of experience sharing her zany take on the world of cars. She is the former editor in chief of Automobile Magazine *and is a frequent on-air commentator. Visit her website at www.jeanknowscars.com.*

UNDER THE HOOD

Simple gas cap tightening could resolve otherwise complicated issue

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: I remember some time back you explained how a loose gas cap can cause a check engine light and it was hard to understand why it wouldn't go away after being tightened. Well, now my light is on and I'm wondering if this could be it. Suggestions?

A: It has been a while since we looked at this and it is a common issue. All cars and light trucks built since 1996 and 1997 are required to test themselves regularly for evaporative emissions leakage and correct functioning of their EVAP, or Evaporative Emission Control System, purging process. A loose gas cap or other cause of leakage can result in an illuminated check engine lamp (along with perhaps 100 other unrelated reasons). It can be a little tricky to make the connection between the two occurrences as many vehicles are snippy about when they run the test, and two consecutive failures must occur before the diagnostic trouble code and lamp occur. Let's take a look at the EVAP system:

Gasoline vapors are collected while the vehicle is parked and driven, and are stored in a charcoal granule-filled canister. At appropriate times while driving, the stored vapors are purged, or drawn into the engine's intake manifold in order to clean out the canister. Each time the vehicle is driven through a warm-up cycle, if conditions are correct, a leakage and purge test may be performed. Some vehicles test for leakage after being parked.

Tightening a loose gas cap won't show an immediate outage of the check engine lamp because the system needs to pass three consecutive tests before the lamp will be extinguished. With perhaps a low fuel level, then a fill-up, this may take as long as a week or longer to see the result. Some vehicles are smart enough to notice the leakage occurred just after a fill-up and illuminate a check gas cap light instead of the check engine light.

If you have access to an inexpensive OBD-II scan tool or code reader, the two likely diagnostic codes related to EVAP system leakage are P0440 (large leak) and P0442 (small leak). If either of these are present the tool can be used to erase the code and extinguish the check engine lamp. If the lamp and code don't reappear within a week, tightening the gas cap was apparently successful. If the same code and light reappear, renewing the cap may be a cost effective gamble prior to seeking professional help. An EVAP leak should not pose a safety concern or engine performance problem. It does, however, result in increased air pollution.

An EVAP leak other than the gas cap can be tricky for a technician to locate as there are a half dozen components and difficult-to-access connecting hoses that could be the culprit. Isolating various components or system sections during a forced retest or injecting low pressure smoke into the system and looking for leakage are common diagnostic methods.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood(at) earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Sam Smith wins 4 Grammys, Beck takes home album of the year

AP

Sam Smith poses in the press room with the awards for best new artist, best pop vocal album for "In the Lonely Hour", song of the year for "Stay With Me", and record of the year for "Stay With Me" at the 57th annual Grammy Awards at the Staples Center on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Sam Smith was the king of the Grammys, taking home three of the top four awards, including song and record of the year for "Stay With Me," and best new artist, while Beck won album of the year.

"I want to thank the man who this record is about ... Thank you so much for breaking my heart because I have four Grammys," said Smith, who also won best pop vocal album for "In the Lonely Hour."

Smith, along with Beyonce, Pharrell and Ed Sheeran, lost album of the year to Beck's "Morning Phase," which also won best rock album.

Kanye West, who famously interrupted Taylor Swift when she beat Beyonce at the MTV Video Music Awards, almost walked onstage when Prince announced Beck's name. Some in the audience seemed shocked, from Pharrell to Questlove.

Beck's album debuted at No. 3 on the Billboard 200 albums chart and sold about 300,000 units.

Pharrell and Rosanne Cash walked away with three awards each. Pharrell won best pop solo performance for a live version of "Happy," released in 2013. He also won best music video for the song and best urban contemporary album for "G I R L," beating Beyonce.

"I am going to moonwalk my way off the stage right now," said Pharrell, wearing a blazer and shorts.

Pharrell's performance of "Happy" was dramatic with background dancers in black, musicians in yellow and a choir in white.

When the chorus was supposed to come in, Lang Lang played the piano skillfully. Hans Zimmer also played the guitar.

"Thank you, God," Pharrell, in a bell-boy hat, said at the end of the performance.

Rihanna gave an impressive vocal performance of "FourFiveSeconds" with Paul McCartney to her right and Kanye West to her left. Her hair was slicked back, and she rocked a black suit like her co-stars

Katy Perry, in all white, sang the ballad "By the Grace of God" after a woman who had been abused talked about getting help and moving on with her life. A video of President Barack Obama appeared before she spoke, and he encouraged artists to help out.

"It's on us, all of us, to create a culture where violence isn't tolerated," he said.

Another serious moment came with Prince, who earned a standing ovation when he walked onstage to introduce album of the year.

"Albums—you remember those? They still matter. Like books and black lives, they still matter."

Madonna, dressed as a matador, performed "Living for Love" atop a platform surrounded by a plethora of background dancers wearing bull masks. A choir did most of the singing, while Madonna danced and the audience at the Staples Center clapped in unison. She ascended into the air as the performance finished.

West performed on a nearly pitch-black stage, with a light glowing from under his feet (he also sported the new sneakers he designed). He sang the new song about his late mother, "Only One."

Annie Lennox was a powerhouse when she sang "I Put A Spell On You" and joined Hozier for "Take Me to Church," nominated for song off the year.

Beyonce won best R&B song and R&B performance for "Drunk In Love" and surround sound album for "Beyonce."

"This has been such an incredible year," she said, thanking her "beloved husband" and "my daughter who is watching."

In one of 23 performances, AC/DC kicked off the show with a performance of their latest single, "Rock or Bust," and then transitioned into the classic "Highway to Hell." It earned a rousing applause from Pharrell, Lady Gaga and Katy Perry, who wore devil horns.

Ariana Grande gave a stripped, piano-led performance of "Just a Little Bit of Your Heart," a song co-written by One Direction's Harry Styles, while Miranda Lambert brought a rock-heavy vibe to "Little Red Wagon." She won best country album for "Platinum."

"I put my heart and soul in this record," she said. "Thank you so much for this amazing night. I love y'all!"

Cash led the pre-show with three Grammys, while Eminem, Kendrick Lamar, Chick Corea and the "Frozen" soundtrack earned two awards apiece.

"Reagan was president last time I won a Grammy," said Cash, who won best American roots performance, American roots song and Americana album. "I just showed up for work for 35 years and this is what happened."

Lamar, who lost in seven categories last year, marked a redemption by winning best rap performance and rap song for "i." Eminem won best rap album, beating Common and Iggy Azalea. He also won best rap/sung collaboration for "The Monster" with Rihanna.

The late Joan Rivers won best spoken word album for "Diary of a Mad Diva," and her daughter, Melissa Rivers, was on hand to accept the award.

"If my mother was here tonight, she would not only be honored and thrilled to be holding her first Grammy," Melissa Rivers said. "She would most likely have it copied and on the air on QVC by 11."

In Loving Memory of

Estefania Flores Camacho,

a long time resident of Navy Hill, Saipan,
Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas,
was born to life on May 25, 1921 in Angaur, Palau,
was called to her eternal rest at the age of 93
on February 5, 2015.

She was a devout Catholic, a loving wife and a devoted mother, grandmother and great grandmother, who enjoyed cooking, baking, gardening, and traveling abroad to visit her children and their families.

Estefania's beautiful legacy and loving spirit will forever live in the hearts and memories of her children and their spouses, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and her caregiver Virgenia Castro. She is survived by her nine children and their spouses: Lydia & John, Efrain & Martha, George & Terry, Mona & Daniel, Virginia & Randy, Margarita & Frank, Mary & Marvin, Bill & Marie, and Vince & Rose.

She now joins her husband Vicente Sablan Camacho, oldest daughter, Annunciacion and grandson Lance, her parents Joaquin Aguon Flores and Yerma Aguon Bruggemann/Antonia Camacho Borja, parents in-laws Luis T. Camacho and Ramona S. Camacho and her numerous siblings, in-laws, and cousins in her new life with the Merciful God.

Daily Mass of Intentions is being celebrated at 6:00 a.m. and Nightly Rosary is being said at 7:00 p.m. both at Kristo Rai Church. Nightly Rosary is being said until Thursday, February 12, 2015.

On Friday, February 13, 2015, responso services will be at 9:00 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral followed by Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 a.m.

Show bits: Who was that wigged woman?

A collection of colorful moments at Sunday's 57th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles as reported by Associated Press journalists on the scene:

Kristen Wiig performs as Sia sings "Chandelier" at the 57th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015, in Los Angeles. AP

KRISTEN WIIG GOES INCOGNITO

Yes, that really was a wigged Kristen Wiig dancing during Sia's performance of "Chandelier."

The former "Saturday Night Live" star pulled off possibly the best kept secret of the 2015 Grammys with her cameo alongside teen dancer Maddie Ziegler as Sia sang obscured in the background.

The "Bridesmaids" star wasn't among the announced celebrities attending the ceremony, nor was she even rumored to be appearing in Sia's kinetic performance, which was introduced by Shia LaBeouf.

Wiig didn't walk the red carpet ahead of the show either.

QUICKQUOTE

"This is the best night of my life. Just a quick one: I want to thank the man who this record is about, who I fell in love with last year. Thank you so much for breaking my heart because you got me four Grammys."—Sam Smith after winning his fourth trophy.

STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Amid the music and celebration, the Grammys turned serious for a moment when President Barack Obama called on musicians and music fans alike to pledge to stop domestic violence.

"It's not OK and it has to stop," Obama said in a spot aired during Sunday's Grammy Awards. "Artists have a unique power to change minds and attitudes and get us thinking and talking about what matters."

Domestic violence survivor Brooke Axtell followed, taking the Grammy stage to share her experience as a survivor and to urge others to recognize their worth and seek help to save themselves.

Her life was saved, she said, when she sought help at a domestic violence shelter.

Katy Perry followed with a solemn performance of "By the Grace of God."

QUICKQUOTE

"He styled me. He picked the look. He called the designer. He did it all. I just tried it on. It fit, it looked great. I was so happy. I'm so lucky."—Kim Kardashian on how husband Kanye West helped her get ready for the Grammys.

STOPPING GRAMMY HUNGER

Kaskade's Grammy fashion statement was inspired by worries about hunger and low blood sugar hitting him during the long-running show.

His metallic blazer looks a lot like rock candy.

"If you lick it, you'll be OK," he quipped.

The Grammy nominee also says he's pleased that EDM has finally come of age in the eyes of the people who hand out the Grammys.

There are now three categories for dance music, including best non-classical remixed recording, the one in which Kaskade was nominated.

"It's awesome," he said. "It seems like just yesterday we were fighting for a category."

SUCCESS WILL GO ON HIS HEAD

Every musician has his or her own Grammy ritual.

For "Weird Al" Yankovic, if he wins he takes the gramophone-shaped trophy and attaches it to his head.

"I'm kind of like a Grammy unicorn," says the accordion-squeezing funnyman, who won his fourth Grammy on Sunday.

Yankovic, who won his first Grammy 30 years ago, says it's still a thrill just to be in the running.

"I never get jaded about it," he said.

QUICKQUOTE

"If my mother was here tonight, she would not only be honored and thrilled to be holding her first Grammy, she would most likely have it copied and on the air on QVC by 11."—Melissa Rivers, accepting the spoken-word Grammy on behalf of her mother, Joan Rivers, for "Diary of a Mad Diva."

THAT'S WHAT A GRAMMY'S ALL ABOUT

How will Sam Smith celebrate after the Grammys?

He wants to go to In-N-Out, that overwhelmingly popular Southern California burger chain.

And don't worry about all those calories he'll rack up with a double-double or two. Smith says he's been dieting just for this night.

He was nominated for six Grammys, including record, album and song of the year, something he called "surreal."

But not as surreal as when Stevie Wonder asked him to drop by his dressing room. Wonder ended up performing one of Smith's songs.

"That's just crazy," he said on the red carpet.

QUICKQUOTE

"I'm just happy people know who I am. Last year, no one knew who I was."—Sam Smith, nominated for six Grammys, including record, album and song of the year.

THE VIDEO MUST GO ON

Whatever happens to Grammy nominee and performer Hozier, he has a music video to shoot after he's finished with the Grammy Awards.

"Hangover or not, there will be a music video," the nominee for song of the year said on Sunday's red carpet.

MYSTERY PAIRING

Will the third time be the charm for Lang Lang?

After teaming with Herbie Hancock and Metallica for past Grammy performances, he's back this year for another go.

This time it will be with—well—the Chinese concert pianist isn't saying. But word is it will be with Pharrell.

He did hint that it will be with a popular male singer and feature an arrangement by Hans Zimmer.

"The Grammys are always filled with surprises, whether it's making new friends or the performances," he said before the show.

TODAY A GRAMMY; OSCAR NEXT?

Before Glen Campbell's song heads to the Oscars, it was a winner at the Grammys.

"I'm Not Gonna Miss You," from the documentary "Glen Campbell: I'll Be Me," won best country song at Sunday's show. It's nominated for best original song at the Academy Awards.

Campbell, who is battling Alzheimer's disease, didn't attend the Grammys.

"I am just so proud of him tonight ... he's been so courageous," his wife, Kim Campbell, said onstage. "Sadly, he can't be here with us because he's in the late stages."

She added: "Music I really believe kept him healthy."

The Band Perry won best country duo/group performance for their cover of Campbell's "Gentle On My Mind," which appears on the documentary's soundtrack.

YOUNGEST FAN

Chris Thile and Claire Coffee brought a very special plus-one to the Grammys: their unborn son.

"Grimm" actress Coffee said she's prepared for the long ceremony with hydration and snacks.

"Shoes are more of an issue," said Coffee alongside her husband, who is up for several awards.

If he loses in every category, Thile said, Coffee has promised to let him buy an expensive bottle of wine as a consolation prize.

'FROZEN' GETS 2 GRAMMY WINS

The soundtrack for the animated tale "Frozen" burned the competition at this year's Grammy Awards.

The top-selling recording won two awards, including best compilation soundtrack for visual media. Idina Menzel's "Let It Go," which also won songwriters Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez an Academy Award, took the Grammy for best song written for visual media.

"Thanks to everyone on YouTube," Lopez said onstage. "This is also for both sets of our parents who had rough years this year."

The "Frozen" soundtrack has sold close to 4 million units.

TIESTO'S BIRTHDAY GIFT BECOMES GRAMMY WIN

DJ-producer Tiesto remixed a song for his birthday and now he has a Grammy for it.

Tiesto remixed John Legend's pop ballad "All of Me," which won the Grammy for best remixed recording, non-classical. Tiesto said he "made this remix spontaneously" for his birthday.

"I gave it away as a free download," he said.

Tiesto said Legend enjoyed the remix so much that made it official. The version was a hit on pop radio in addition to the original version.

Legend's live version of the song is nominated for best pop solo performance. The song peaked at No. 1 on Billboard's Hot 100.

Publicist: Bruce Jenner wasn't texting during fatal crash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bruce Jenner was not texting while driving when he got into a chain-reaction crash in Malibu that left a woman dead, a publicist for the Olympic gold medalist said Sunday.

Jenner will provide his cellphone records if requested by investigators looking into the cause of the four-vehicle crash on Pacific Coast Highway, Alan Nierob said.

"The evidence will show that Bruce was not texting at the time of the accident," he said.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's officials said investigators will likely seek cellphone records for all the drivers to determine if distracted driving played a role in the accident.

Jenner was driving a black Cadillac Escalade when he rear-ended a Lexus sedan that slammed into a Toyota Prius that had slowed down or stopped on the famous coastal highway, sheriff's Sgt. Philip Brooks said.

The Lexus veered into oncoming traffic and collided head-on with a black Hummer.

The driver of the Lexus—Kim Howe 69, of Calabasas, California—was pronounced dead at the scene.

In his first comments since Saturday's crash, called the accident "a devastating tragedy" and vowed to cooperate with investigators.

"My heartfelt and deepest sympathies go out to the family and loved ones, and to all of those who were involved or injured in this terrible accident," Jenner said in a statement Sunday evening. "It is a devastating tragedy I cannot pretend to imagine what this family is going through at this time. I am praying for them."

The moment of impact was captured by celebrity photographers, who quickly posted the images on the Internet. The photos show the white Lexus mangled in the front and back, facing the Hummer, which had a heavily damaged engine and its hood popped open. Jenner's Escalade, which was pulling an off-road vehicle, had a damaged front end.

There was no indication Jenner was being chased by paparazzi at the time of the crash, authorities said. "Being a celebrity, he is often followed by paparazzi. He was aware of that, and it doesn't appear he took any evasive action to avoid the paparazzi," Brooks said.

Authorities said Jenner passed a field sobriety test and voluntarily submitted a blood sample to determine whether he was intoxicated.

The sheriff's department has custody of all the vehicles and will be inspecting them to ensure they are mechanically sound or whether a defect prevented somebody from stopping in time.

Investigators could also request search warrants, if necessary. The information gleaned from those records could help inform prosecutors, if they were to consider charges against the drivers involved.

However, Brooks said it is difficult to determine if a driver was texting at the exact time of a collision. Investigators will look at signs of driver behavior such as multiple texts that span a period of time leading up to, or including, the crash, Brooks said.

The crash comes at a time of widespread talk that Jenner, 65, is becoming a woman. Though Jenner himself has declined public comment, his appearance has gradually become more traditionally feminine. Those in his inner circles have not challenged speculation that he is preparing to live as a woman and perhaps will appear in a new reality series about his transition.

UK film awards boost 'Boyhood' but clip wings of 'Birdman'

LONDON (AP)—Slow-cooked coming-of-age tale "Boyhood" took the best film and director trophies at the British Academy Film Awards on Sunday, while Wes Anderson's candy-colored comedy "The Grand Budapest Hotel" won the biggest haul of prizes, with five.

Both are unusual works by distinctive directors, and there were also multiple trophies for the Stephen Hawking biopic "The Theory of Everything" and the jazz-drumming drama "Whiplash" at an event that proved small, personal films could emerge as winners.

Awards-season high-flyer "Birdman" had its wings clipped, taking only a cinematography prize from 10 nominations. And World War II code-breaking drama "The Imitation Game" won nothing despite nine nominations.

Richard Linklater, who spent 12 years making "Boyhood," was named best director, and Patricia Arquette won the supporting-actress trophy as a struggling mother in the film.

Arquette said Linklater had set out to show "how extraordinary an ordinary life is."

"Boyhood" star Ellar Coltrane, who grew from 6 to 18 onscreen, thanked British voters for rewarding "an exercise of collaboration and vulnerability."

The British awards, known as the BAFTAs, are considered an indicator of likely success at Hollywood's Academy Awards later this month.

"The Theory of Everything" was named best British film, and won an acapted-screenplay award for Anthony McCarten.

Eddie Redmayne, already an awards-season favorite, won the best-actor prize for his performance as physicist Hawking, who probed the cosmos while his body was wracked by motor neuron disease.

Redmayne said the evening went much better than his last BAFTA appearance, which he spent vomiting backstage with food poisoning when he was supposed to be presenting an award.

"It was one of the worst nights of my life," Redmayne said. "This is one of the best nights of my life."

AP

Steve Carell, left, and Ethan Hawke, collecting the award on behalf of Richard Linklater, winner of Best Director for Boyhood, pose for photographers in the winners room, during the British Academy Film and Television Awards 2015, at the Royal Opera House, in London, Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015.

The actor paid an emotional tribute to Hawking, his ex-wife Jane and their families, "for reminding me of the great strength that comes from the will to live a full and passionate life."

Julianne Moore was named best actress for portraying a professor with Alzheimer's in "Still Alice."

Anderson won the original screenplay trophy for "The Grand Budapest Hotel, which also took prizes for production design, costumes, hair and makeup and Alexandre Desplat's score.

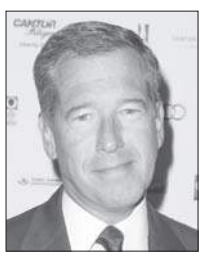
Damien Chazelle's jazz-drumming drama "Whiplash"—a taut psychological showdown that was shot in 19 days—took prizes for sound and editing. The supporting-actor trophy went to the film's J.K. Simmons, a stalwart character actor who is finally receiving major awards recognition.

"The Lego Movie" was named best animated feature, a prize the filmmakers said helped ease the pain of its Oscars snub.

"You are our favorite academy by far," said co-director Phil Lord.

British actor Jack O'Connell, star of "71" and "Unbroken," won the Rising Star award, the only trophy decided by public vote. The others are chosen by several thousand members of the British film academy.

Brian Williams backs out of Letterman appearance



Williams

NEW YORK (AP)—Embattled NBC News anchor Brian Williams is backing out of scheduled appearance on David Letterman's "Late Show" on Thursday.

That news from NBC came Sunday, a day after Williams said he was stepping away from NBC's "Nightly News" as the network looks into the anchor's admission that he had told a false story about being on helicopter hit by a grenade while reporting on the Iraq war.

Williams had spread the story of his helicopter being under attack during a previous "Late Show" interview with Letterman. He apologized for the statements on Wednesday, and NBC News launched an internal investigation Friday.

NBC News has refused to comment on when or whether Williams will return and who will decide his future.

Since Williams' apology, questions also have been raised about his claim that he saw a body or bodies in the Hurricane Katrina floodwaters that hit New Orleans in 2005.

His remarks in a 2006 interview drew suspicion because there was relatively little flooding in New Orleans' French Quarter, the area where Williams was staying. A person at NBC confirmed that Williams stayed at the Ritz-Carlton, which is in an area where a news photographer and a law enforcement official said they saw bodies.

Weekend anchor Lester Holt is filling in for Williams on the "Nightly News" for at least the next several days.

New accuser emerges as Cosby cancels shows in Boston

BOSTON (AP)—A former fashion model and actress who appeared on one episode of "The Cosby Show" in 1988 is the latest woman to accuse Bill Cosby of making unwanted sexual advances.

Helen Gumpel, formerly known as Helen Selby, said Sunday that Cosby made sexual advances and lewd gestures toward her while she was on the set of the show.

She said she was called to the show's set for what she thought was another audition shortly after filming the one episode. She said she was brought to Cosby's dressing room and Cosby had her sit on a couch and handed her a drink. She said Cosby then stood in front of her with his crotch in her face.

"I never thought of myself as a victim because I refused his advances," Gumpel said. "But my career was a victim."

Cosby's lawyer Marty Singer did not immediately respond to an email message seeking comment. The 77-year-old entertainer faces sexual assault accusations from at least 15 women. He denies the allegations and has never been charged with a crime.

Gumpel, who lives in Connecticut with her husband, made the allegations at a news conference she held at a downtown Boston hotel hours after Cosby canceled back-to-back comedy shows scheduled that evening at the nearby Wilbur Theater. Demonstrators had threatened to protest outside the theater.

Ledisi 'disappointed' not upset over Beyonce Grammys switch

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Beyonce gave a resplendent rendition of "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" at the Grammys but it was Ledisi who gave the song revived attention with her performance of it for "Selma."

Ledisi plays Mahalia Jackson in the Oscar-nominated film and sings the song on the movie's soundtrack, so some of her fans expressed anger on social media that she was not asked to perform on the Grammys. (John Legend and Common performed their song from the movie, "Glory," which has been nominated for an Academy Award.)

The Grammy-nominated Ledisi said she understands why Beyonce was chosen, but admitted to being "a little disappointed."

"But I got over that and I had to look at the positive and empower women," she told The Associated Press on the Grammy red carpet on Sunday before the show started. "We have to empower each other. It's a great thing. And one day I'll be on that Grammy stage. Every artist wants to be on the Grammys stage. That's part of our career is to be there. So my time will come when it's time."

And Ledisi said she is glad more focus is coming to "Selma."

Student wants to uphold high standards while living abroad

DEAR ABBY: I'm a high school student who has the amazing opportunity to travel to Spain for a school year as a foreign exchange student. I know I am very lucky to have this opportunity to travel, but I am scared about the people there.

I am a Mormon, so I will have to uphold my standards alone in a non-Mormon environment. I have never been away from home for this long, and that's hard enough as it is. I guess I just need some advice on how to be strong when I'm there.

ALONE IN SPAIN

DEAR ALONE: I agree that you are being given an amazing opportunity to grow and learn. If you haven't spoken about this with your adviser, please do so. I assume you will be living with a host family. When you get there, consider discussing your concerns with the parents. I am sure you will be encouraged to stick to your standards and beliefs, and be respected for doing so if you remember to also respect others who may not think exactly the way you do.

DEAR ABBY: My niece had a baby a year after graduating from high school and is now raising her daughter as a single mom. After the first year, I told her that if there was anything she needed to let me know, but that I would rather contribute to a college fund for her daughter than send her toys for gift-giving holidays.

My niece was thrilled, so I set up a college savings account for her daughter and contribute to it monthly in lieu of birthday and Christmas gifts for them. However, when those gift-giving occasions come, I worry they may feel slighted when presents arrive from me for others. My niece and I never mentioned it to other family members.

Would it be appropriate for me to send some kind of reminder occasionally so they know the account is there and growing?

CONTRIBUTING TO HER FUTURE

DEAR CONTRIBUTING: Yes, it's appropriate. You should also send your niece a summary at the end of each year so she can see the progress. In addition, you might consider sending the child an inexpensive small gift or card so she'll have something to open.

DEAR ABBY: In response to the letter from "David in Kentucky" (Nov. 2), the 50-year-old single man who was unsure what to do with his late mother's engagement ring, I disagree with your answer. Yes, gems are meant to be enjoyed, and the ring is doing no one any good in a drawer, but he should NOT sell it.

I think David should have a man's ring made for himself with it, so he can have a memento of what his dad gave his mom to treasure many years ago. I wear my mom's and grandmother's rings every day on my right hand, and remember them often with joy.

DEVOTED FAN IN FLORIDA

DEAR DEVOTED FAN: Your suggestion was the No. 1 comment I received from readers. Some said if David was eventually to meet the woman he wanted to marry, the stone could be removed again and reset into a lady's ring.

Another good idea several readers offered is to donate the ring in his mother's memory to a charity auction of a cause she supported.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

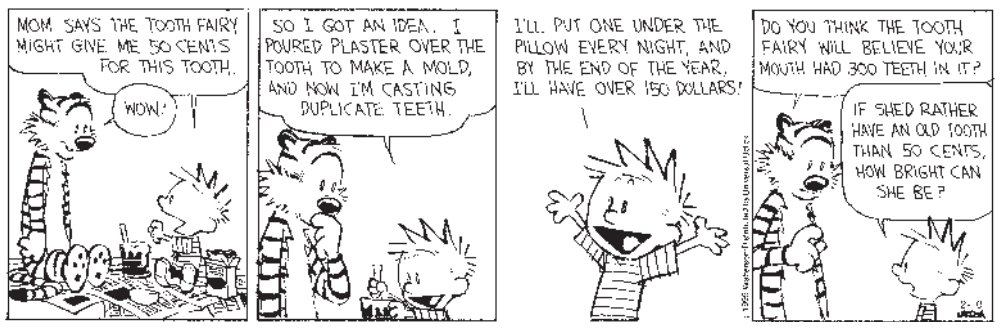
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

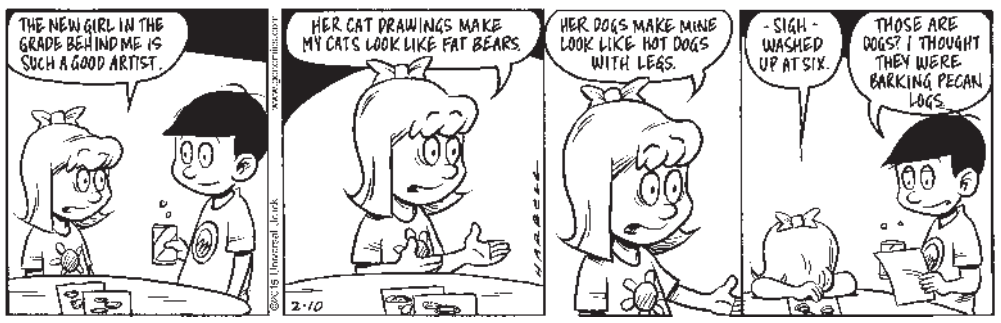

MOM SAYS THE TOOTH FAIRY MIGHT GIVE ME 50 CENTS FOR THIS TOOTH.
WOW!
SO I GOT AN IDEA. I POURED PLASTER OVER THE TOOTH TO MAKE A MOLD, AND NOW I'M CASTING DUPLICATE TEETH.
I'LL PUT ONE UNDER THE PILLOW EVERY NIGHT, AND BY THE END OF THE YEAR, I'LL HAVE OVER 150 DOLLARS!
DO YOU THINK THE TOOTH FAIRY WILL BELIEVE YOUR MOUTH HAD 300 TEETH IN IT?
IF SHE'D RATHER HAVE AN OLD TOOTH THAN 50 CENTS, HOW BRIGHT CAN SHE BE?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THE NEW GIRL IN THE GRADE BEHIND ME IS SUCH A GOOD ARTIST.
HER CAT DRAWINGS MAKE MY CATS LOOK LIKE FAT BEARS.
HER DOGS MAKE MINE LOOK LIKE HOT DOGS WITH LEGS.
- SIGH - WASHED UP AT SIX.
THOSE ARE DOGS? I THOUGHT THEY WERE BARKING PECAN LOGS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

These memos are all about you, Camino.
You don't get along with any of the people in your department.
So are you going to promote me?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

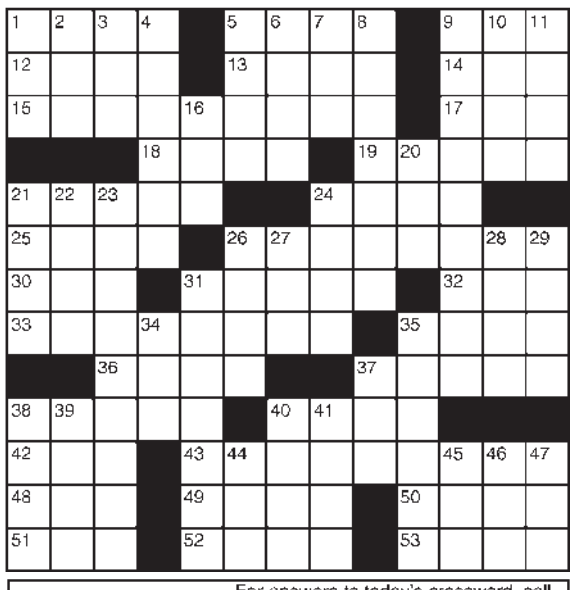
ACROSS
1 Tamer's prop
5 Egg
9 Got a look at
12 Wife of Zeus
13 Sit for a snapshot
14 Alias abbr.
15 Sumatran simian
17 60 sec.
18 Medicinal measure
19 Nasality
21 Chocolate source
24 Burn somewhat
25 Aahs' mates
26 Pensive
30 "SNL" alumna Gasteyer
31 "Is that your — answer?"
32 Driver's prop
33 Train station, e.g.
35 "Nuts!"
36 Pork fat
37 Hiawatha's craft
38 Sleuth Sam
40 Pale
42 Feedbag tidbit
43 1979 Woody Allen movie
48 — Khan
49 Zits
50 35-Down's state
51 Understanding
52 Gotta have
53 Dweeb

DOWN
1 Personal question?
2 That girl
3 Glass of "This American Life"
4 Bamboo munchers
5 Piece of work
6 November responsibility
7 Mex. neighbor
8 VapoRub ingredient
9 Good — (helper)
10 Related (to)
11 Vera of fashion
16 Moo — gai pan
20 Bankroll
21 Layer
22 Highly rated
23 Fraud
24 Barbecue fuel
26 Tie
27 Genetic matter
28 Infamous string musician
29 Simmons of KISS
31 Relief pitcher
34 Crazed
35 Wright Brothers' home
37 Dance syllable?
38 Drench
39 Senate staffer
40 Green Gables girl
41 Lean-to
44 Expert
45 Definite article
46 Melody
47 Affirmative action?

Solution time: 22 mins.

C	O	P	A	■	C	H	M	■	Z	I	N	G
O	R	A	T	O	R	I	O	■	E	D	E	N
G	O	L	D	D	U	S	T	■	P	E	R	U
■	■	■	A	I	D	■	J	I	H	A	D	S
S	P	A	W	N	■	B	L	O	Y	■	■	■
E	A	R	N	■	D	U	S	T	R	A	G	■
T	I	E	■	S	E	R	T	A	■	W	A	G
■	R	A	G	T	I	M	E	■	C	O	I	A
■	■	■	R	A	G	A	■	S	A	L	A	D
S	L	O	U	G	H	■	S	E	N	■	■	■
C	U	P	B	■	T	I	M	E	C	A	R	D
A	R	A	B	■	C	O	D	O	V	E	T	E	R
B	E	L	Y	■	N	O	G	■	L	E	V	Y

Yesterday's answer 2-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chloe Grace Moretz, 18; Emma Roberts, 24; Elizabeth Banks, 41; Laura Dern, 48.

Happy Birthday: More options will become available. Fortunate circumstances will help you accomplish your goals. Look at the big picture and make your choices based on how your decisions will affect the people you love the most. Additions to your home or family will lead to both joy and limitations. Embrace emotional situations and make the alterations necessary to move forward. Your numbers are 5, 17, 22, 26, 30, 41, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): An opportunity to form a partnership should be taken advantage of by sharing and adapting your skills and services to fit universal needs. It's up to you to sell what you have to offer. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Making reforms will help you move forward with your plans. You'll be questioned initially, but once you share your long-term goal, you will be given the freedom to carry on. A worthwhile suggestion will pay off, enabling you to exceed your expectations. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take a cautious approach to whatever you do. Someone will be working against you. Keep your strategy a secret and refrain from letting your emotions govern an important decision. A romantic relationship will take an unexpected turn. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't hesitate to ask questions or change your mind and your direction. Consider starting a creative project based on your skills, and you will experience greater freedom. Thoughtfulness will ensure better personal relationships with the people you love the most. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Fix up your home or make a domestic move that fits your current lifestyle better. Trying to please the people you love most is likely to backfire. Do what's best for you and keep on moving. Someone you admire will offer you insight. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Make an effort to understand the partners you are involved with personally and professionally. A well-thought-out response will help you maintain your position and your reputation. Do whatever it takes to show off what you have to offer. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Focus on professional gains. Make a unique change or take a personal interest in people who have something to contribute to your ideas and goals. Use emotional tactics when dealing with someone trying to take advantage of your kindness. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Promote a project you've been working on or make a suggestion that will help you entice an audience to join in your pursuit. Raise your profile by making influential connections. Taking a small risk could pay off in big ways. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Listen, but question what's being said. Get the facts straight or you'll pay for someone else's mistake. Situations you face with friends, neighbors and relatives will escalate, putting you in an awkward position. Travel delays are likely. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Use your savvy business sense to gain approval. An unusual idea you came across in the past will be an ideal solution to a problem you are facing now. Rely on your ability to get a job done right the first time. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Listen to what's being said and use your experience and knowledge to fight opposition. Wasting time on something you cannot change will set you back. Try to settle a money matter, allowing you the freedom to move forward with your plans. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Sign contracts and invest time and money in a creative idea you want to pursue. Collect old debts and clear up misunderstandings before you move forward. Romance can help improve your personal life and relationship. A commitment can be made. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are stable, determined and intelligent. You are sensitive, caring and passionate.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3				8		
					7		4	
1		5	8	4				7
		9	6				5	
		1		5		2		
	5				3	6		
2				6	9	5		3
	4		2					
		6				1		

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	5	6	3	4	1	2	8	9
9	8	4	6	7	2	3	1	5
1	2	3	8	9	5	6	4	7
8	1	5	2	6	4	7	9	3
2	3	9	5	1	7	8	6	4
6	4	7	9	8	3	1	5	2
4	9	8	7	2	6	5	3	1
5	6	2	1	3	9	4	7	8
3	7	1	4	5	8	9	2	6

Difficulty Level ★ 2/9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MAKING NEW FRIENDS Solution: 9 letters

G	R	O	U	P	S	G	N	I	T	P	E	C	C	A
E	N	E	E	N	N	O	I	T	C	E	N	N	O	C	T
W	C	I	H	S	E	E	S	S	A	L	C	M	Q	O	T
E	N	C	T	T	E	O	W	A	H	M	U	R	N	I	
B	O	A	M	S	A	U	U	E	U	A	G	S	V	T	
S	I	L	O	R	U	G	E	N	I	A	S	T	E	U	
I	T	L	V	A	H	R	I	N	N	V	E	S	R	D	
T	C	L	I	B	F	C	T	I	(T)	N	R	E	S	E	
E	A	A	E	U	A	A	Z	U	(E)	T	U	R	A	D	
S	R	I	L	T	N	A	O	C	(A)	E	T	E	T	I	
C	E	C	I	C	T	G	I	R	(M)	B	L	T	I	C	
H	T	O	E	I	N	V	I	T	E	D	U	N	O	A	
O	N	S	O	A	D	N	O	M	M	O	C	I	N	T	
O	I	N	H	A	P	O	T	E	N	T	I	A	L	E	
L	S	E	I	B	B	O	H	D	E	T	O	V	E	D	

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Accepting, Acquaintances, Advice, Attitude, Bars, Build, Call, Cheerful, Classes, Close, Common, Communication, Connection, Conversation, Cultures, Dedicated, Devoted, Gather, Groups, Hangout, Hobbies, Interaction, Interests, Invited, Laugh, Movie, Organizations, Potential, School, Social, Team, Trusting, Views, Websites

Yesterday's Answer: Daily

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 35, 37, 38, 39, 40 or 41, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(2) Embroiderer. Must be able to do embroidery. Must be able to sew/ embroider garments, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Assemble garment parts and join parts with basting stitches, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Program machine to be able to embroider a specific design. Knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in production of precision. Must have a 1-2 years experience in embroidery. Multi tasking. Island Apparel. P.O. Box 502912 Saipan MP, 96950. No phone call please. Qualified US Citizen applicants may send resume/bio-data at hr.islandapparel@gmail.com

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North Carolina coaching great Dean Smith dies at 83

By AARON BEARD
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Dean Smith was more than simply a basketball coach.

Yes, the retired Hall of Famer left North Carolina as the winningest coach in men's history after capturing two national titles along with the 1976 Olympic gold medal and coaching some of the sport's biggest names, Michael Jordan among them.

But he also was an innovator who left a lasting influence on the sport, as well as someone known for his stand on civil rights driven by the belief that it was the right thing to do.

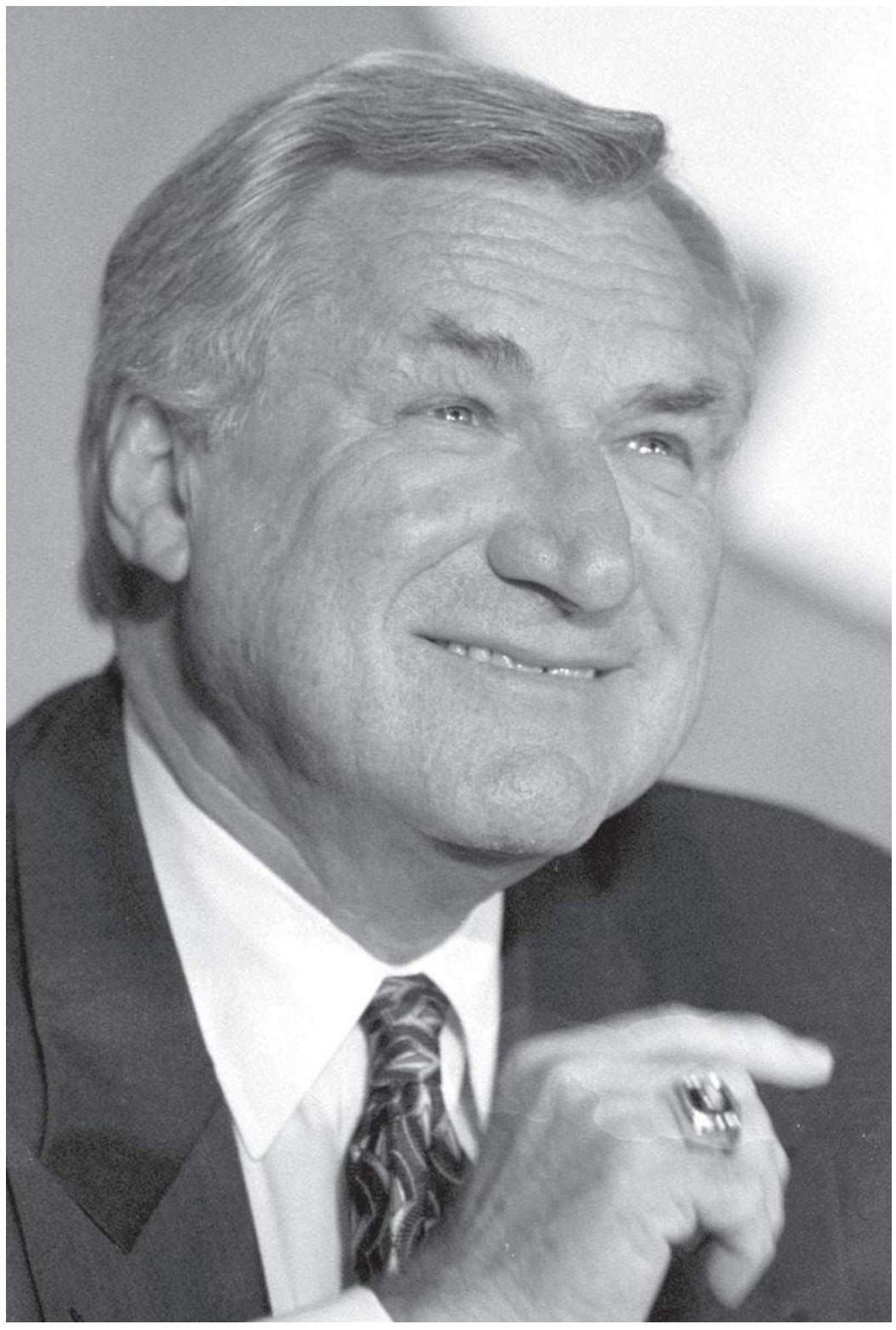
Smith died "peacefully" Saturday at age 83 at his Chapel Hill home, his family said in a statement released by the school Sunday. He was with his wife and five children.

Roy Williams, the current Tar Heels coach and Smith's assistant for 10 years, said his mentor was the "greatest there ever was on the court but far, far better off the court with people."

"I'd like to say on behalf of all our players and coaches, past and present, that Dean Smith was the perfect picture of what a college basketball coach should have been," Williams said in a statement. "We love him and we will miss him."

Smith kept a lower profile amid health issues in recent years, with his family saying in 2010 he had a condition that was causing him to lose memory. He was unable to travel in November 2013 to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor presented to Smith as much for his work off the court as on it.

At the urging of his pastor, he recruited black athletes, and in 1967 made Charlie Scott the school's first black scholarship athlete and one of the first in the segregated South.



AP

In an Oct. 9, 1997 file photo, North Carolina basketball coach Dean Smith smiles during a news conference in Chapel Hill, N.C.,where he announced his retirement.

In a statement Sunday, President Barack Obama said Smith "pushed forward" the civil rights movement with Scott's recruitment as well as helping integrate a restaurant and a neighborhood in Chapel Hill.

Smith "showed us something that I've seen again and again on the court—that basketball can tell us a lot more about who you are than a jumpshot alone ever could," Obama said.

On the court, his "Four Corners" time-melting offense led to the adoption of the shot clock to counter it. The now-common "point to the passer," in which a scorer acknowledges a teammate's assist, became a hallmark of Smith's always humble "Carolina Way."

He was a direct coaching descendent of basketball's father, James Naismith, playing and later coaching at Kansas for the inventor of the game's most famous student, Jayhawks coach Phog Allen.

At UNC, he tutored perhaps the game's greatest player in Jordan—who burst onto the national stage as a freshman by hitting the winning shot in the 1982 NCAA final—and two of basketball's most successful coaches, fellow Hall of Famers Larry Brown and Williams.

When UNC held a reunion for its 1957 and 1982 championship teams in 2007, Smith drew the largest applause from the crowd in the arena bearing his name, even as he stood alongside Jordan and fellow Tar Heel great James Worthy. During the ceremony, Jordan put his arm around Smith and kissed him on the head.

In a statement Sunday, Jordan said Smith was "more than a coach—he was a mentor, my teacher, my second father. Coach was always there for me whenever I needed him and I loved him for it."

Smith's only losing season was his first, and he left the game in October 1997 having surpassed Kentucky's Adolph Rupp as the winningest coach in Division I men's history with 879 wins in 36 seasons—a record now held by Duke Hall of Fame coach Mike Krzyzewski.

"We have lost a man who cannot be replaced," Krzyzewski said in a statement. "He was one of a kind and the sport of basketball lost one of its true pillars."

Smith led the Tar Heels to 13 Atlantic Coast Conference tournament championships and 11 Final Fours, winning NCAA titles in 1982 and 1993. Along the way, more than 95 percent of Smith's lettermen graduated while more than 50 of his players went on to play in the NBA or ABA—including Phil Ford, Brad Daugherty, Jerry Stackhouse, Rasheed Wallace, Vince Carter and Antawn Jamison.

Smith seemed uncomfortable with the attention that came with breaking Rupp's record. When former Indiana and Texas Tech coach Bob Knight was on the verge of breaking it in 2007, Smith noted with a sarcastic smile, "I'm going to cry about that."

"But still, it's something that, we do it for the team," Smith said. "When they're excited, that's why we're in this field. I'm sure it's that way with Bob Knight. It's never one of his goals and certainly was never one of mine."

Born Feb. 28, 1931, in Emporia, Kansas, as the son of public school teachers, he graduated from Kansas in 1953 after playing for Jayhawks teams that won the NCAA title in 1952 and finished second in `53.

He was an assistant coach at Kansas and Air Force before joining Frank McGuire's staff at UNC in 1958. When McGuire left for the NBA in 1961, the university chose the 30-year-old Smith to take over.

Smith went 8-9 in his first season and was even hanged in effigy after a loss in January 1965 before his breakthrough run of three straight Final Fours in the late 1960s. His 1982 team beat Patrick Ewing and Georgetown in the final, then his 1993 team beat Michigan's "Fab Five" for his second crown.

In addition to wife Linnea, Smith is survived by daughters Sandy, Sharon, Kristen and Kelly; son Scott; seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Funeral plans were not announced.

Jason Day wins at Torrey Pines in a playoff

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Jason Day was playing to win and figured he lost.

His chip from gnarly rough behind the 18th green at Torrey Pines came out hot, rolled out fast and tumbled off the front of the green toward the water. After a week of visualizing his hands on the trophy, his thoughts quickly changed to a more dire scenario.

"OK, where do I need to drop?" he said.

The cheers told him otherwise. The ball stopped at the yellow hazard line a few feet from the water. Day saved par from there, got into a four-man playoff and won the Farmers Insurance Open on Sunday with a par on the second extra hole.

"When you win golf tournaments, you have to have a little bit of luck," Day said. "And that was my luck."

There was plenty of skill to go with it.

Day made two big birdies and a par save from a plugged lie in the bunker during a tough stretch on the back nine and closed with a 2-under 70. He played a smart shot on the par-5 18th in the playoff and made birdie with a superb pitch. And he outlasted J.B. Holmes on the par-3 16th with a 5-iron to 15 feet after Holmes drilled his 6-iron over the green and made bogey.

Harris English, who birdied the 18th hole for a 72, and defending champion Scott Stallings (69) also were in the playoff. They were eliminated on the first extra hole.

It was a big win for Day, who was more determined than ever not to let injuries get in the way of his lifelong goal of No. 1 in the world. For now, he'll have to settle for No. 1 in Australia. The third PGA Tour victory of his career moved him to No. 4, just ahead of Adam Scott, still miles behind Rory McIlroy. But it's a start, and equally important to winning is staying in good health.

After winning the Match Play Championship a year ago to rise to No. 4 in the world, he played only the Masters in the next three months because of a thumb injury.

"It's an amazing feeling," Day said. "I've been working so hard for this. I was visualizing myself holding the trophy, just like I did at the Match Play. I'm really proud of myself to hang in there and grind it out."

Day said he no longer wants to be satisfied finishing second, and it showed. Tied for the lead, he took a chance in regulation by going for the 18th green in two. He pulled a 3-wood to clear the water, but over the green in U.S. Open-type rough is no bargain, and it nearly cost him.

Holmes played it safe with no regrets.

In the final group and tied for the lead, he had 235 yards to the pin and chose to lay up with an 8-iron. He was surprised when his wedge didn't spin back toward the bowl at the front of the green, and his 20-foot birdie putt for the win grazed the cup. He closed with a 72.

A little shorter or longer in the fairway and he said he would have gone for it. But the ball was on a slightly downhill lie.

"It was a lie that my tendency is to hit it a little bit further and hit a draw, and long and left is dead," Holmes said. "If you hit something over the green there, it's not really an easy up-and-down. It's not really the best access to the pin. The best play is to lay up and hit a wedge. I had the same thing again, I would lay up."

English and Stallings were eliminated on the first extra hole. Stallings had to lay up from the left rough, and his 15-foot birdie putt turned away. English drove well to the right, but his short iron back to the fairway was too strong and settled on the border of the first cut and 4-inch grass. He couldn't get any spin on the ball, and was left with a 60-foot birdie putt from the back of the green to stay alive. It stopped a few inches short.

Equally important for Day were the holes leading up to the 18th. He made one of only four birdies at the 15th, and he holed a 50-foot putt on the 16th for one of only five birdies in the final round. From a plugged lie in a bunker at the 17th, he got up-and-down.

Day was among seven players who had at least a share of the lead on a Sunday that was more about survival than a shootout. It was the first time that a single-digit score under par—9-under 279—won on the PGA Tour since Justin Rose (4-under 276) at Congressional last summer.

Charles Howell III (68) and Alex Prugh (71) each missed birdie chances on the 18th and finished a shot out of the playoff.

Durant leads Thunder to blowout win over Clippers

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The Los Angeles Clippers stumbled in their first test without Blake Griffin.

The Clippers announced before their game at Oklahoma City on Sunday that the All-Star forward would be out indefinitely because of a staph infection in his right elbow. Without him, the Clippers fell to their most lopsided defeat of the season, a 131-108 loss to the Thunder.

Griffin will have surgery Monday in Los Angeles and will be re-evaluated after the All-Star break.

"We're depleted right now, but no one feels sorry for us," coach Doc Rivers said. "I don't feel sorry for us. You got to just figure it out and keep playing."

Kevin Durant scored 29 points, Russell Westbrook had 19 points, 11 rebounds and five assists, and rookie Mitch McGary added 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Thunder, who shot 52 percent and moved back above the .500 mark.

McGary, a reserve forward, had missed most of the season with left foot and leg injuries and had played in only two NBA games. He provided energy with his play, then took it up a notch by flexing and beating his chest to exhort the crowd. At one point, he drew a standing ovation.

"I'm a pretty energetic guy, so usually the crowd gets into it," he said. "I always hear loud fans cheering when I enter the game, even when I don't score or anything like that. I ended up having a good game, and all I could do was get the crowd into it even more."

Westbrook said McGary has put in the time to be ready between rehabbing and playing for the D-League Oklahoma City Blue.

"You see how much work he put in over the past month-and-a-half, two months of recovering and getting himself back in," Westbrook said. "To see him get an opportunity was very exciting."

Jamal Crawford scored 21 points and Paul had 18 points and 13 assists for the Clippers, who were outrebounded 54-29 without Griffin.

"They killed us, and we've got to be better," Rivers said.

AP

Oklahoma City Thunder forward Serge Ibaka, right, shoots in front of Los Angeles Clippers forward Spencer Hawes, left, in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015.

Thunder center Steven Adams injured his right hand after being fouled with 3:36 left in the second quarter. The right-handed New Zealander shot a pair of free throws with his left and made the second, drawing a roar from the crowd. He did not return.

The Thunder led 66-56 at halftime, and Oklahoma City opened the second half on a 9-2 run. A contested 3-pointer by Durant gave the Thunder a 75-58 lead. Westbrook drained a 3-pointer with 11.9 seconds left in the third quarter to put the Thunder up 101-75.

"I thought we had the right game plan going into it," Rivers said. "We were going to try to plug up the paint, but as the game went on, it just kind of got away from us."

Grizzlies 94, Hawks 88

In Memphis, Tennessee, Mike Conley had 21 points and six assists, and Marc Gasol finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds as Memphis beat Atlanta.

The game was tied at 86 after Mike Scott's 3-pointer with 3:24 left before Memphis scored the next eight points to put away the game.

Zach Randolph had 11 points and 15 rebounds, while Kosta Koufos finished with 10 points and seven rebounds as Memphis outrebounded the Hawks 55-37.

One of those rebounds provided the tiebreaking basket, with Tony Allen tipping in Randolph's miss to make it 88-86 with 2:28 remaining.

Jeff Teague led the Hawks with 22 points, shooting 9 of 13, while Kent Bazemore added 14 points. Dennis Schroder and Scott finished with 11 apiece off the Atlanta bench and DeMarre Carroll scored 10.

Cavaliers 120, Lakers 105

In Cleveland, Kevin Love scored a season-high 32 points and LeBron James flirted with a triple-double as Cleveland quickly got back to winning.

The Cavs had their 12-game winning streak snapped Friday, a run that started when they beat the Lakers on Jan. 15. This time, Love made five 3-pointers in the second quarter and two more in the third as Cleveland opened a 26-point lead.

James scored 22 with 10 rebounds and eight assists in three quarters. All-Star guard Kyrie Irving added 28 points and 10 assists.

Rookie Jordan Clarkson scored a career-high 20 for the Lakers, who matched a franchise worst with their 10th straight road loss. Los Angeles hasn't won away from Staples Center since Dec. 30 at Denver. The Lakers also lost 10 in a row on the road in 1957-58 and 1963-64.

Raptors 87, Spurs 82

In Toronto, James Johnson scored a season-high 20 points in his return to the starting lineup and DeMar DeRozan had 18 as Toronto denied Spurs coach Gregg Popovich his 1,000th career victory.

Amir Johnson added 15 points, Kyle Lowry 12 and Jonas Valanciunas had a season-high 16 rebounds as Toronto improved to 8-2 at home against Western Conference opponents. The Raptors snapped a seven-game losing streak against the Spurs and won for the first time in five home meetings.

Tim Duncan and Marco Belinelli each scored 12 points, Kawhi Leonard had 11 and Tony Parker 10 as the Spurs shot 31 for 93 (.333), their worst performance of the season. San Antonio's previous low was .344 at Houston on Nov. 6 in a 98-81 defeat.

Trail Blazers 109, Rockets 98

In Houston, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 24 points and Damian Lillard added 23 to help Portland fight off a late charge from Houston.

James Harden tied a season high with 45 points for the Rockets, who are playing without star center Dwight Howard, out indefinitely with knee swelling.

The Trail Blazers led by 17 in the second half, but a big third quarter helped Houston to a slim lead early in the fourth quarter. Portland scored seven straight points to break a tie and take a 92-85 lead midway through the period, with five points from Meyers Leonard in that stretch.

Houston cut the lead to four points twice in the last 2 ½ minutes, but Portland answered both times.

Bulls 98, Magic 97

In Orlando, Florida, Pau Gasol dunked in the rebound of Derrick Rose's missed layup with 9.4 seconds left as Chicago rallied to beat Orlando.

Jimmy Butler led the Bulls with 27 points, and Gasol finished with 25 points and 15 rebounds. Joakim Noah added 18 points and nine rebounds.

Chicago led by as many as 16 points, before finding itself in a six-point hole with just over 2 minutes to play.

The Magic had two opportunities to win the game in the closing seconds. But Nik Vucevic's hook rolled off the rim, and Tobias Harris overshot a potential game-winning tip-in as time expired.

Victor Oladipo led six Orlando players in double figures with 18 points. Harris added 15, and Vucevic 14.

Kings 85, Suns 83

In Sacramento, California, DeMarcus Cousins made a jumper as time expired and finished with 28 points and 12 rebounds, giving Sacramento a victory over Phoenix.

Cousins rescued the Kings from a fourth straight loss. Sacramento squandered a 14-point lead in the final quarter when it was outscored 24-12.

But Cousins launched a 19-footer from the key that hit the rim several times before settling into the basket, setting of a huge celebration at midcourt by the struggling Kings.

Isaiah Thomas had 14 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter for the Suns, who have dropped four of five games. Goran Dragic added 13 points.

Pacers 103, Hornets 102

In Charlotte, North Carolina, George Hill's baseline layup with 4.9 seconds left lifted Indiana to a come-from-behind victory over Charlotte.

C.J. Watson had 22 points and David West, Luis Scola and Rodney Stuckey each had 15 as the Pacers battled back from a 21-point, third-quarter deficit for their third straight win.

Al Jefferson had 30 points and 13 rebounds, and Brian Roberts added 19 points in the loss.

After Marvin Williams knocked down a 3-pointer with 14 seconds left to put the Hornets up by one, Hill drove the right side of the line. He got underneath the basket and turned around to find himself alone near the low block. He converted the easy layup for the go-ahead basket.

Timberwolves 112, Pistons 101

In Auburn Hills, Michigan (AP) — Nikola Pekovic scored 29 points and Kevin Martin added 24 to lift Minnesota to its third straight victory.

Minnesota had not even won back-to-back games this season until this modest streak. The Timberwolves led throughout against the Pistons despite the absence of guard Ricky Rubio, who is still recovering from a left ankle injury. Andrew Wiggins scored 18 points for Minnesota, and Thaddeus Young added 16.

Andre Drummond had 17 points and 14 rebounds for the Pistons, going 8 of 8 from the field.

Detroit trailed 74-55 in the third quarter before fighting back to make a game of it. It was 83-79 early in the fourth, but a 3-pointer by Wiggins started an 18-6 run for Minnesota.

The Timberwolves have won 10 straight over the Pistons.

Michael Bradley, Clint Dempsey lead US men past Panama, 2-0

CARSON, Calif. (AP)—When Michael Bradley curled a corner kick over the Panama defense and into the net for a spectacular goal, Clint Dempsey was unsure exactly how it happened.

"You'd have to ask him whether he was aiming for that, because we didn't know," Dempsey said, laughing.

With big goals from both veterans and a clean sheet, the United States provided ample reason for more excitement heading into an eventful year.

Bradley scored in the 27th minute, Dempsey added his 40th career goal later in the first half, and the Americans snapped a five-game winless skid with a 2-0 victory over Panama on Sunday.

The Americans wrapped up a monthlong training camp with their best result in 10 games since winning their opener at last year's World Cup. The U.S. had won just once since beating Ghana in Brazil, but coach Jurgen Klinsmann's squad looked considerably sharper in its home opener for a big year that includes the Gold Cup and World Cup qualifying.

Bradley started it with a spectacular Olimpico goal, putting his corner kick directly into the far top corner of Jaime Penedo's net with an exceptional bend. Jozy Altidore could have headed it in if needed, but instead watched it settle for Bradley's 13th career goal.

"Coming out of a little bit of a difficult period, it was an important game for us," Bradley said. "Maybe this isn't the most important game we'll play this year, but while it wasn't perfect, we were able to do a lot of good things. It sets the groundwork for the rest of the year."

As for his goal, Bradley assured everybody that's exactly what he meant to do.

"Well, we work on a lot of different setpieces," Bradley said.

Goalkeeper Sean Johnson replaced Nick Rimando for the second half, finishing up the Americans' first shutout since their last victory, over the Czech Republic last September.

The Americans' most impressive player was hometown star Gyasi Zardes, the LA Galaxy forward. He punctuated his first career U.S. start in the 37th minute by winning the ball in midfield and making a beautiful pass to Dempsey, who sidestepped Penedo and finished.

Klinsmann praised Zardes and other youngsters who stepped up during the camp.

"He is trying to impress, and he's hungry," Klinsmann said about Zardes. "He showed certain tools he has. The assist to Clint was just perfect, perfect timing. It shows he has something special."

Dempsey, the Seattle Sounders star, trails only Landon Donovan as the second-leading goal-scorer in U.S. history.

Titans, Voyagers grab early lead

The Abyss Titans and the Jokers IT&E Voyagers grabbed the early lead in the Saipan Billiards Association-Budweiser Open 8-Ball League's Winter/Spring 2015 season that opened last week in various bars on Saipan.

Nine teams are vying for the Thursday crown while six squads signed up in the Tuesday League.

The Titans kicked off their title bid in the Thursday League with a 10-5 win over the Barcode Hobbies Deadshot.

Jack Thomsaket, Patrick Cepeda, Randy Sablan, John Reyes, and Ray Matsunaga proved steadier against Marc Brian Nelvis, Greg Deleon Guerrero, Frankie, Blas and Drake Taitano of the Deadshot.

The Titans will try to pad their early lead when they take on the Jokers Homeboyz on Thursday night, while the Deadshot hopes to bounce back from that loss when they face the Barcode Breakers.

In other Thursday League matches, the Homeboyz, Wild Bill's, and Abyss Rack 'N Roll pulled off similar 9-6 decisions against the Smoke Pub Magic 8 Ball, Jokers Wonderpool Aces, and Breakers while Route33 Alamo Car Rental edged Jonny's SCS, 8-7.

In the Tuesday League, the Voyagers were almost unbeatable in an 11-4 victory against the Abyss Homeboyz 2.

Mark Butac, R.J. Mascarinas, Brian Nelvis, and Rolly Villanueva dropped their respective matches against Joshua Woodson, Rey Hermogenes, George Lizardo, and Neil Ayson for the Homeboyz's wins.

The Jokers STR8 Shooters and the Smoke Pub Armatech Hustlers scored identical 9-6 triumphs against the Abyss Crazy 8 and the Smoke Pub Destroyers.

The Voyagers battle the STR8 Shooters, the Hustlers clash with the Crazy 8, and the Home Boyz meet the Destroyers in tonight's matches. ***(Jon Perez)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The Abyss Titans, top, and the Barcode Breakers enjoy a light moment before plunging into action in the Budweiser-Saipan Billiards Association Thursday and Tuesday leagues, which opened their new seasons last week.

UFO league meeting Thursday

Organizers of the 2015 United Filipino Organization basketball league will hold another meeting on Thursday at 6pm at Jhem's restaurant in Garapan.

Twenty teams spread out into the four divisions have sent feelers of joining this season's cage hostilities that will open on Feb. 22, Sunday, at 7am at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Masters division has the most number of teams with seven followed by six in the Open category. The Under-15 and U20 have so far four and three squads.

League organizers are limiting the number of teams to eight each in the four divisions.

Competing squads are allowed to form a 12-player roster while registration fees are $350 in U15, $400 in U20, $600 in Open, and $550 in the Masters.

The opening games will be chosen by raffle with the U15 the first match and each followed by contests in the Masters, U21, and Open.

For more information, call Bong Malasarte at 287-5525, Pepe Crisostomo at 483-1997, Edward Manalili at 483-4337, Marlon Regaton at 989-9836, or Pete Reyes at 9897317 or email at ufo.saipan@gmail.com. ***(Jon Perez)***

Post Valentines beach volleyball tourney set

Come join the fun on Sunday, Feb. 15, and nurse your post-Valentine's Day fun at the beach with the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The 7th Annual For the Love of Volleyball being hosted by the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

This is a fundraiser event with all proceeds going back into youth volleyball development.

Hyatt Regency Saipan will award prizes to the champion, second and third place finishers.

Registration fees are $20 for NMIVA or Club Elan members and $25 for non-members. ***(NMIVA)***

JINNOSUKE

From Page 28

Taiyo Akimaru (14:08), Daino Sato (14:15), Coume Kaga (14:17), Akira (15:26) and Wataru (15:30) Kadokura, Jinie Thompson (17:13), Ayumi Kaga (17:52), Tiffany Lin (19:14), Mamiko Berger (19:24), Goshi Sato (21:29), Yumiko Mizuno (24:41), Susana (24:59) and Nieves (27:28) Villagomez.

In the longest race of the day, 2014 Micronesian Games gold medalist Victoria Chentsova bested six others. She completed the five-loop course under one hour after recording 59:12 and surviving a jellyfish sting on her way for the last loop.

Christian Villacrusis was also stung by the jellyfish, but still broke the one-hour barrier after tallying 59:45.

VIllacrusis and Chentsova finished ahead of Taiga Sato (1:04:49), David Boyer (1:10:36), Carolyn Pierce (1:20:50), Gary De Guzman (1:25:27), and SSC president Emma Perez (1:37:47).

Meanwhile, SSC would like to thank Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Glenn Policare and other PIC staff, and Powerade/Coca-Cola for supporting the weekend event.

5 GAIN

From Page 28

natsu Kaga.

Beling and Ortega took a longer route to march into the Round of 8, bagging three wins. They topped Tisha Ferrer and Jeffrey Seo, 6-2, 6-1, beat Dong Min Lee and Rintaro Miyawaki, 7-6, 7-6, and survived Vincent Tudela and Coume Kaga, 7-6, 5-7, 10-7. Ortega and Beling will be paired against Villanueva and Eda in the quarterfinals, which will be played this weekend.

The other Round of 8 pairing in the upper bracket are Goodwin-Elliot versus Ren-Kaga. The tandem of Kaga and Ren made it to the quarterfinals following their victories over Marivic Rosario and Riko Ojima, 6-0, 6-3, and Carol Lee and Gang Min Kim, 7-5, 6-3. Goodwin and Elliot needed an extra set to prevail in its last match and move into the next round as they slipped past Peter Loken and Tiara Imai, 5-7, 6-4, 10-7. Earlier in their first game, Elliot and Goodwin swept Ami Tsukagoshi and Daniel Kang, 6-3, 6-2, while Imai and Loken downed Alex Martin and Anthony Gregoire, 6-2, 6-1, and Tania Tan and Ken Song, 4-6, 3-6, 10-6, to notch Round of 16 berth.

Meanwhile, at the bottom half of the bracket, the pair of Jeff Race and Richard Steele was the first team to earn a quarterfinals seat. The duo collected three wins to stay in contention, prevailing first against Maaya Sato and Ryan Cho, 6-1, 6-3. The coach and his student then defeated Sakiko Eda and Joshua Abragan, 6-2, 6-4, and Jack McClure and Grace Choi, 6-3, 6-1, to make it to the quarterfinals.

The three remaining quarterfinals berth were contested by the teams of Eric Abragan-Robbie Schorr; Luther Lizama-Aaron Lee; Colin Ramsey-Bob Kim; Fr. Ryan Jimez-Mimi Sakano; Martin-Hyejin Elliot; and Negahr Rastguiy-Malika Miyawaki.

Miyawaki and Ratguiy won over Nicky Nichols and A.J. Hudkins, 6-1, 6-4, to advance against Elliot and Martin, a 6-1, 6-3 winner versus Sharka and Elie Epley. Jimene and Sakano also took two sets to beat Sunny Cho and Eugene Park, 6-2, 6-00, and arrange a Round of 16 date with Ramsey and Kim, who eliminated Lydia Tam and Eubin Park, 6-4, 6-3.

The duos of Abragan and Schorr and Lizama and Lee also swept their respective foes to set up their battle for one of the three remaining quarterfinals tickets. Lizama and Lee made short work of Julia Ishikawa and Soleil Lamar, 6-2, 7-5, while Abragan and Schorr eased past Dylan Ackerman and Hyu Woon Chin, 6-1, 6-1.

BLUE

From Page 28

kets late in the second quarter to back up Moises and started out for Blue Haus in the third, nailing the team's first 8 points to lead the breakaway. Edwin Santos finished what Factor started, scoring 6 of Blue Haus' last 9 markers to end the third with a 58-43 advantage. Sam Fernandez logged the other field goal off a triple.

Factor's four field goals was just one shy of the five baskets the Slashers made, as the team struggled anew on offense as it had limited options with only six players able to last in the match.

Facing a depleted crew that failed to make headway in the third, Blue Haus decided to keep its second stringers in the fourth quarter and Factor capitalized on his longer playing time, adding 8 more points in the final canto. He finished with a game-high 20 markers, while three of his teammates also gained double figures. Moises chipped in 16, while Santos and Fernandez added 10 apiece.

Gerry Farinas and Dick Tibayan led the Slashers with 12 points each and most of them came when Blue Haus had the game in the bag. Alvin Alvarez contributed 11, missing the entire fourth quarter due to knee problems.

Blue Haus 81 – Factor 20, Moises 16, Fernandez 10, Santos 10, Valencia 8, Diaz 7, Guiab 6, Buenabajo 2.

Slashers 61 – Farinas 12, Tibayan 12, Alvarez 11, O. Ebuen 10, Villasan 9, De Jesus 4, Abadilla 1.

Scoring by quarters: 22-20, 41-32, 58-43, 81-61.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	35	17	.673	–
Brooklyn	21	29	.420	13
Boston	19	31	.380	15
Philadelphia	12	40	.231	23
New York	10	41	.196	24½
Southeast Division				
Atlanta	42	10	.808	–
Washington	32	20	.615	10
Charlotte	22	29	.431	19½
Miami	21	29	.420	20
Orlando	16	38	.296	27
Central Division				
Chicago	32	20	.615	–
Cleveland	32	21	.604	½
Milwaukee	28	23	.549	3½
Detroit	20	32	.385	12
Indiana	20	32	.385	12

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	38	13	.745	–
Houston	35	16	.686	3
Dallas	35	18	.660	4
San Antonio	32	19	.627	6
New Orleans	27	24	.529	11
Northwest Division				
Portland	35	17	.673	–
Oklahoma City	26	25	.510	8½
Denver	19	32	.373	15½
Utah	18	33	.353	16½
Minnesota	11	40	.216	23½
Pacific Division				
Golden State	40	9	.816	–
L.A. Clippers	33	19	.635	8½
Phoenix	29	24	.547	13
Sacramento	18	32	.360	22½
L.A. Lakers	13	38	.255	28

FARMERS INSURANCE OPEN SCORES

SAN DIEGO (AP)–Scores Saturday from the Farmers Insurance Open, a PGA Tour event played at the 7,698-yar, par-72 South Course and 7,052-yard, par-72 North Course at Torrey Pines. Purse: $6.3 million

FINAL

x-Jason Day (500), $1,134,000	73s-65n-71s-70–279
J.B. Holmes (208), $470,400	69n-70s-68s-72–279
Harris English (208), $470,400	68s-66n-73s-72–279
Scott Stallings (208), $470,400	70n-72s-68s-69–279
Charles Howell III (105), $239,400	72n-70s-70s-68–280
Alex Prugh (105), $239,400	70n-70s-69s-71–280
Martin Laird (83), $189,788	68s-68n-76s-69–281
Shane Lowry (0), $189,788	74s-67n-72s-68–281
Nick Watney (83), $189,788	71s-65n-72s-73–281
Jimmy Walker (83), $189,788	72s-66n-70s-73–281
Zac Blair (61), $129,150	72s-70n-71s-69–282
Michael Thompson (61), $129,150	65n-73s-74s-70–282
J.J. Henry (61), $129,150	68n-71s-73s-70–282
Carlos Ortiz (61), $129,150	73s-70n-68s-71–282
Jhonattan Vegas (61), $129,150	67s-69n-73s-73–282
Spencer Levin (61), $129,150	68s-70n-70s-74–282
Colt Knost (54), $97,650	69n-72s-71s-71–283
Chad Collins (54), $97,650	75s-66n-75s-67–283
Jamie Donaldson (50), $76,356	72s-71n-69s-72–284
Brandt Snedeker (50), $76,356	70n-71s-71s-72–284
Ian Poulter (50), $76,356	67n-71s-72s-74–284
Bill Haas (50), $76,356	72s-67n-70s-75–284
Chad Campbell (50), $76,356	67n-71s-70s-76–284
Daniel Berger (46), $55,440	70n-68s-77s-70–285
Tony Finau (46), $55,440	73s-68n-70s-74–285
Lucas Glover (46), $55,440	70s-68n-70s-77–285
Brendon de Jonge (42), $44,730	67n-72s-73s-74–286
Camilo Villegas (42), $44,730	70n-70s-75s-71–286
Marc Leishman (42), $44,730	72s-66n-72s-76–286
John Peterson (42), $44,730	68n-72s-70s-76–286
Andres Gonzales (42), $44,730	69n-69s-71s-77–286
Andrew Svoboda (35), $32,690	75s-67n-71s-74–287
Danny Lee (35), $32,690	71n-70s-73s-73–287
Chris Kirk (35), $32,690	67n-74s-72s-74–287
Jim Herman (35), $32,690	69n-72s-74s-72–287
Greg Owen (35), $32,690	70s-70n-72s-75–287
Freddie Jacobson (35), $32,690	67n-73s-72s-75–287
Sang-Moon Bae (35), $32,690	73s-69n-69s-76–287
Adam Hadwin (35), $32,690	72s-69n-71s-75–287
Brian Harman (35), $32,690	71s-69n-71s-76–287
James Hahn (29), $23,940	72s-70n-71s-75–288
Brooks Koepka (29), $23,940	66n-74s-74s-74–288
Keegan Bradley (29), $23,940	71n-70s-74s-73–288
David Toms (29), $23,940	70s-69n-76s-73–288
Scott Pinckney (25), $18,963	70n-72s-71s-76–289
Brendan Steele (25), $18,963	69n-72s-74s-74–289
Gary Woodland (25), $18,963	68n-72s-75s-74–289
John Huh (25), $18,963	74s-66n-76s-73–289
Scott Piercy (21), $15,719	69n-74s-71s-76–290
Carl Pettersson (21), $15,719	72s-69n-72s-77–290
Whee Kim (21), $15,719	70n-72s-73s-75–290
John Senden (21), $15,719	72n-71s-73s-74–290
Nicholas Thompson (15), $14,317	64n-73s-76s-78–291
Cameron Percy (15), $14,317	71n-69s-73s-78–291
Angel Cabrera (15), $14,317	71n-70s-75s-75–291
Martin Flores (15), $14,317	71n-72s-73s-75–291
Jonas Blixt (15), $14,317	68n-75s-73s-75–291
K.J. Choi (15), $14,317	71s-70n-76s-74–291
Brian Stuard (15), $14,317	70n-72s-76s-73–291
Retief Goosen (15), $14,317	74s-69n-75s-73–291
Rickie Fowler (9), $13,608	69n-72s-72s-79–292
Luke Guthrie (9), $13,608	70n-73s-71s-78–292
Mark Hubbard (9), $13,608	70n-73s-74s-75–292
Steve Wheatcroft (6), $13,230	73s-67n-76s-77–293
Roger Sloan (6), $13,230	73s-68n-76s-76–293
Robert Garrigus (6), $13,230	73s-70n-77s-73–293
Andres Romero (4), $12,915	73s-69n-75s-77–294
Kyle Stanley (4), $12,915	76s-67n-76s-75–294
Cameron Tringale (1), $12,600	66n-76s-75s-78–295
Sean O'Hair (1), $12,600	72s-71n-74s-78–295
Matt Every (1), $12,600	72n-71s-77s-75–295
Daniel Miernicki (0), $12,348	76s-65n-74s-81–296
Zack Sucher (1), $12,222	78s-65n-79s-76–298
Pat Perez (1), $12,096	75s-65n-77s-83–300

x-won on second playoff hole

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GCA Fun Run, Walk & Bike

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Participants of GCA Fun Run, Walk & Bike have their pictures taken at Banzai Cliff on Jan. 24, 2015. A total of 125 people took part of its first fundraising event, which raised over $800. The money will be used to build the church of Grace Christian Assembly in Tanapag. The event was held in celebration of its 30th anniversary that includes 3K Walk, 5K Run, and 10K Bike.

Durant leads Thunder to blowout win over Clippers

PAGE 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

North Carolina coaching great Dean Smith dies at 83

PAGE 24

Jinnosuke, Jin Ju prevail

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club's Jinnosuke Suzuki and Jin Ju Thompson emerged as the top finishers in the three-loop race of last Saturday's SSC Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim held in the waters off Pacific Islands Club.

Nine-year-old Suzuki completed the more than one-kilometer course in 40:31 to place first overall and beat eight other male finishers, including several adult participants. Eleven-year-old Thompson came in second overall and first in the women's field after clocking in at 40:35.

Suzuki and Thompson finished ahead of Kaoru Takahashi (46:37), Tamio Nishikido (47:35), Tony Stearns (48:41), Suzy Kindel (48:51), Salofi Welch (50:30), Atsuko Sato (52:28), Joshua Berger (52:28), Kimiko McKagan (1:02:49), Rich Villagomez (1:03:07), and Tomomi Sato.

Besides the three-loop contest, two other races took place last Saturday with 18 joining the one-loop event and seven completing the five-loop course.

Conatsu Kaga ruled the female division in the one-loop course after submitting 13:08, while Kento Akimaro complete the race using the butterfly stroke and still topped the male's field with his 13:12. Lennosuke Suzuki also utilized his butterfly stroke and came in seventh overall after logging 15:25.

Other finishers in the one-loop race were Rintaro Miyawaki (14:07),

See JINNOSUKE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jinnosuke Suzuki, left, and Jin Ju Thompson moves out of the water during last Saturday's SSC Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim at the Pacific Islands Club.

5 gain q'finals slots in mixed-up doubles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Five pairs notched quarterfinals berths in the mixed up doubles event in the 2015 Coconut Tennis Classic.

At the top half of the 40-team main draw, Moris Villanueva and Haruya Eda led the Round of 8 cast. The two junior players advanced to the quarterfinals after posting twin wins over the weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts. They first edged fellow junior bets Mikayla Lopez and Erika Tuttle, 2-6, 6-3, 12-10, before sweeping Randy Steele and Asia Raulerson, 6-0, 6-2.

Joining Villanueva and Eda in the quarterfinals of the upper bracket were Luke Beling and Elie Ortega, Steven Goodwn and Jamin Elliot, and Michael Ren and Co-

See 5 GAIN on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Steven Goodwin, seen here serving during a singles match in the 2015 Coconut Tennis Classic last Saturday at the AMP tennis courts, teamed up with Jamin Elliot and advanced to the quarterfinals of the mixed-up doubles.

Blue Haus still unbeaten in Masters caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Blue Haus extended its winning streak to three after easing past the Slashers, 81-61, in the curtain raiser of the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Blue Haus began controlling the game in the second half to remain unbeaten and keep the top spot in the seven-team league, while the Slashers fell to a 1-2 slate.

The Slashers were still in contention at the end of the first period, facing only a 2-point deficit, 20-22, but failed to counter Blue Haus' attack in the second, allowing the latter to slowly pad its lead. Ernie Moises led Blue Haus' second-quarter domination, drilling 10 of his total points as he nearly matched the entire output of the Slashers (12).

Jun Factor added back-to-back bas-

See BLUE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Blue Haus' Jun Factor, left, and the Slashers' George Villasan battle for the rebound, while Sam Fernandez jockeys for position against Orly Ebuen during the third quarter of their game in the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.